

# Dining with Deity

This is very familiar to last week's lesson. This should impress upon us the significance of such principles. Not only did Jesus encounter them again and again, but He felt it necessary to address.

*Note: I've enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore's "The Chronological Life of Christ." Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he's not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I've leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He's done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.*

*No events occurred between last week's lesson and today.*

## Another Healing On The Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- Jesus is dining with Pharisees again, and they are watching Him like hawks.
- This is the last of three meals Jesus has with Pharisees (Luke 7:36; 11:37; 14:1).
- Every time He does so, it ends in an argument.
- "Dropsy. Old medical term for excessive accumulation of watery fluid in any tissue or space of the body. Dropsy, mentioned in Luke 14:2, is a symptom of several serious disorders such as heart, kidney, or liver disease; Jesus healed a man "who had dropsy" but whose underlying illness is not described. The word "dropsy" has generally been replaced with more specific medical terms: excessive abdominal fluid is now referred to as ascites, cutaneous or subcutaneous dropsy as edema, and pleural dropsy as hydrothorax. Dropsy is not mentioned directly in the OT. A reference to swollen feet (Dt 8:4) could refer to pedal edema or simply to the formation of blisters." (Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Dropsy," in *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 643.)

- *Something to meditate on:*

- Scary questions: Have you ever been asked a question you're scared to answer because it doesn't fit with your "theological tradition?" Listen, just because a thing seems good doesn't make it so. Yet, sometimes, we miss the obvious because our tradition has blinded our eyes.
- Hypocrisy: This keeps coming up again and again. Are we consistent? We need to honestly look inward. Have you ever caught this in your own life? It should probably concern you if you can't think of a single instance. I'm glad Jesus sent the healed man away so he wouldn't have to stay around for the shenanigans.

## Wedding Feast/Great Banquet (7-14)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- We're still at the Pharisees' table. Jesus looks around and notices those who have chosen the place of honor.
- Jesus had something to say to the host as well. Everyone is coming under fire.
- Side note: we want to be balanced. Jesus is able to read hearts. We need to remember that one moment doesn't necessarily define a person. You need to be sure you're on the right track before addressing a concern with a brother or sister. Jesus isn't contradicting Himself - it's about context.

- *Something to meditate on:*

- Dining with Deity: We think about who's around the table today. We consider Jesus' ability to take small observations and make big applications. We're reminded that subtle actions may say much about who we are. Are you ready to dine with Jesus?

- Pride: "It was just a seat." It's not about the seat. "It was just a suggestion." Yes, and you've always got to make one, don't you. "I was just trying to help." By taking over all the time? "I was running late." And all those people in line had nowhere to go? "I just wanted to offer some counsel." Yeah, because you're the one to give it, right? "They're just nice people." And they happen to be loaded financially . . . again. I'm sure it's just a coincidence. You see, brethren, it's about how we view ourselves and what we want to get out of the situation. Honor. Respect. Validation. Comfort. Satisfaction. Worthiness. Deserving. "Little things," we say. "Big things," says Jesus. We can all have moments of this that need to be quickly forgiven, overlooked, or not thought about too deeply. Great friends overlook such silly moments, but when it's a lifestyle . . . it's a big thing. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for loving the best seats in the synagogues, places of honor at feasts, and being greeted in the marketplaces.
- Parenting: Teach this to your kiddos now. The world won't baby them like you do. The world will put them in their place. Let them win the world with their humility. This is a good life lesson, in general, brethren.
- False Humility: Yes, even the host can have bad motives? Why do you think he invited Jesus? Inviting other Pharisees is comfortable and offers security. Maybe you'll be the host to finally trap Jesus? Why do you do the "good" that you do? I know this isn't always a fun process.

### Seeing Yourself (15-24)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*
  - Then Jesus addresses someone who heard what Jesus said but wasn't truly listening.
  - This man is thinking about the Messianic banquet they perceived from passages such as Isaiah 25:6-12; 65:13-16).
- *Something to meditate on:*
  - Clueless: Now we address the clueless guy in the room. He's so confident he's picking up what Jesus is throwing down, but he's wrong. There's the talk and the walk.
  - Great Host: Notice who Jesus has at His table. The poor, crippled, blind, and lame. He'd also have Gentiles at His table. Can you believe it?!?!? Who's at your table? Will you be at Jesus' table, or do you not see yourself as poor, blind, crippled, and lame?

### The Cost Of Discipleship (25-35)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*
  - Large crowds gather to Jesus. This happened after His last meal with a Pharisee (Luke 12:1). Moore says, "Because these feasts were semi-public, and Jesus' feast speeches were so pointed, they stirred up community interest." (Pg. 423).
  - Finally, Jesus addresses the bystanders. Jesus comes before family. He comes with suffering. He deserves our attention and commitment. One needs to consider what they will lose and gain for Jesus.
- *Something to meditate on:*
  - Spectators: Some people love this position, but Jesus doesn't let them off the hook either. It's one thing to cheer Jesus on and speak well of Him, but will you sacrifice all? Again, the time for talk is over. Jesus is a few months away from His own crucifixion.
  - Dining with Parents: We want our kiddos to see what it looks like to follow Jesus. We don't want them to lose the popularity contest, be at the back of the line, or feel disappointment, but brethren - following Jesus requires it. Ignore Jesus' teachings and your kids will "wow" the world with their positions and powers, but understand this: they're end up at the back of the line in God's kingdom.
  - Dining With Jesus: This focuses on the negative side of so-called "disciples." Brethren, some bring the gospel to life. People such as yourselves. We see what you bring to the table. We know who you invite and why. We see you serving others because you know, by the goodness of Jesus, you will be

asked to recline with God one day. You motivate others with purity, love what's good, and seek to serve. You help those who have no one to look up to. Hold the hands of those without help. You don't show partiality. Jordan was bragging on her sisters, for example, because they helped so much over the last few days. You were cleaning up, preparing meals, keeping an eye on the kids, etc. It's in the little things. Thank you for all you do - they're really not that little. You're not in love with this world. You care about Jesus' view of you. You serve Him, and one day, you'll dine with deity.