

Luke 13:31-14:24 — Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

³² He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

³⁴ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Luke 14 — Jesus at a Pharisee's House

¹ One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.

⁵ Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" ⁶ And they had nothing to say.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Parable of the Great Banquet

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

¹⁶ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²² " 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

Luke 13:31 - 14:24

1. What prompted the Pharisees to warn Jesus of Herod's intentions?
2. Jesus' life, work, and death were not determined by Herod or the Pharisees. What or who planned and directed his life and mission?
3. Why was Jesus focusing on Jerusalem? Why did Jesus say with respect to gathering its people together, Jerusalem was "not willing" or would not let him? (13:34, 1 Kings 19:10, 2 Chronicles 24:19)
4. How was the meal at the Pharisee's house set up to trap Jesus? (14:1-2) Did it?
5. What does the parable in Verses 7-11 mean today? Are you eager to raise your social status? To be with the "right" people? To drive a cool car? Who do you try to impress?
6. How can we humble ourselves? (14:11) Does humility mean putting yourself down? Is humility the same as self-degradation? What is real humility?
7. In Verses 12-14, Jesus advises his host to invite people who cannot repay him back. What do you think of this advice? Does this include people who are poor because they are lazy or poor by choice?
8. There are two points in the who-to-invite story (vs 12-14). They are?
9. How do you feel when you plan a big event and it is poorly attended? What kind of excuses do you most resent others using?
10. In Jesus' days, it was customary to send two invitations to a party—the first to announce it and the second to tell the guests that everything was ready. How does the parable of this party (banquet) fit into Israel's history? How did the character of the banquet change given the new guest list?
11. There are many people in this story: the master, his servant, those invited the first time, the crippled and blind, others on country roads. Who do you identify with and why?
12. From Luke 13:18 to 14:23, the underlying theme has been the process of entering the Kingdom of God. What are the steps in this process?

Luke 13:31 - 14:24 — Notes to Leader

Q3. Jerusalem was the city of God and symbolized the entire nation of Israel. It was Israel's largest city and the nation's spiritual and political capital and Jews from around the world visited it frequently. What happened in Jerusalem was broadcast to the world. But Jerusalem had a history of rejecting prophets and would reject the Messiah just as it had rejected his forerunners.

1 Kings 19:10 - [During the reign of Ahab and Jezabel] He, Elijah, replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

2 Chronicles 24:19 Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

Q4. Dropsy = edema, which is an abnormal excess accumulation of serous (thin, watery) fluid in connective tissue and body cavities.