### Luke

## Chapter 14

1Well, there was a time when [Jesus] went to eat a meal at the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees on a Sabbath… And everyone there was watching him closely. 2Then {Look!} a man suffering from edema came to him.  
  
3So Jesus asked those students of the Law and the Pharisees this:  
  
 ‘Is it legal to cure on the Sabbath or not?’  
  
4However, they wouldn’t answer.  
  
So he touched [the man] and healed him, and then he sent him away. 5And Jesus asked them:  
  
 ‘If your burro or bull fell into a well on the Sabbath, who of you wouldn’t immediately go and pull him out?’  
  
6Well, they were unable to come up with a reply.  
  
  
7Then, after noticing how the guests were choosing the best spots at the table, he gave them this parable:  
  
 8‘If you’re invited to a wedding reception,  
 Don’t go and recline in the very best place.  
 For if someone more honored arrives,  
 9The host will have to come there and say:  
  
 ‘Let this man have that spot.’  
  
 ‘And you’ll be shamed when you’re sent to the least honored place.  
  
 10‘So whenever you’re invited [to a banquet],  
 Go and recline in the very last spot.  
 Then, when the host arrives, he’ll say:  
  
 ‘Friend, take a better position!’  
  
 ‘And you’ll be honored before all his guests.  
 11For the self-exalting will be humbled,  
 And the humble will be lifted high.’  
  
12Then Jesus said to the man who invited him:  
  
 ‘When you spread a dinner or a supper,  
 Don’t call your friends and your brothers,  
 Nor your kin or your rich neighbors;  
 For, you’ll then get your reward  
 When they invite you [for a meal].  
  
 13‘But whenever you’re planning a banquet,  
 Invite the crippled and poor,  
 As well as the lame and the blind…  
 14Those who can’t repay you;  
 For then you’ll receive your reward  
 When the righteous are standing again.’  
  
15Well, when one of the guests heard this, he shouted:  
  
 ‘Aren’t those who [are invited to] dine in the Kingdom of God those who’ll be blest?’  
  
16And [Jesus] said:  
  
 ‘There was a man who prepared a large supper,  
 And he invited many [friends] to come there and dine.  
 17So, after the meal was prepared,  
 He sent his slave out to tell them:  
  
 ‘Come on, for [the banquet] is ready!’  
  
 18‘But each thereafter gave an excuse.  
 Said the first:  
  
 ‘I must look at a field that I’ve bought;  
 So, please let me be excused.’  
  
 19‘And then another said this:  
  
 ‘I’ve purchased five pairs of oxen,  
 And I must now go to inspect them;  
 So, please let me be excused.’  
  
 20‘Still another replied:  
  
 ‘Because I’m about to get married,  
 I’m unable to come at this time.’  
  
 21‘Well when the slave returned and reported these things,  
 The master of the house became angry,  
 And this is what he said to his slave:  
  
 ‘Go quickly to the main streets and alleys,  
 And bring the crippled and poor,  
 As well as the blind and the lame.’  
  
 22‘And when he returned, the slave told him:  
  
 ‘Although I did everything you told me to do,  
 There’s still plenty of room!’  
  
 23‘So the master then gave these instructions:  
  
 ‘Go out to the roads and backyards,  
 And make people come, so my house will be filled!  
 24For I tell you that nobody I invited  
 Will get even a taste of my supper!’  
  
25Well, since a large crowd had come there with him, he turned to them and said:  
  
 26‘Unless those who come to me care less for their fathers, mothers, wives, children, brothers, and sisters – yes, even for their own lives – they can’t become my disciples...  
  
 27‘Nor can anyone follow me who’s unwilling to carry his own impaling pole!  
  
 28‘For, which of you who might choose to build a tower for himself wouldn’t first sit down to calculate the costs, so you’d be sure that you have enough [funds] to complete it?  
  
 29‘Because, if you laid the foundation and then found out that you couldn’t finish the project, everyone who sees it would make fun of you and say:  
  
 30‘This man started the job, but then he couldn’t complete it!’  
  
 31‘Or, what king, when he’s marching [to battle], doesn’t first sit down and ask his advisors if his 10,000 troops can possibly beat the one coming with 20,000?  
  
 32‘Because if he’s unable to do that, while [his enemy] is still far away, he’ll send his ambassadors to sue for peace.  
  
 33‘So, you must be sure too!  
  
 ‘For anyone who’s unwilling to give up everything they own, isn’t capable of being my disciple!  
  
 34‘Yes, salt is good... But if it loses all its strength,  
 What good will it be for seasoning your food?  
 35So if it isn’t any good to use on soil or manure,  
 People will just throw it away!  
  
 ‘Now, let those who have ears pay attention to this!’