

Jesus Teaches in a Pharisee's Home

Luke 14:1-24

Jesus was again invited into the home of a Pharisee for a Sabbath meal. As the Religious Leaders looked on with critical eyes, Jesus healed a man and then gave four important lessons. Warren Weisbe referenced this passage as Jesus correcting the false thinking and actions of many in the Jewish culture of His day.

I. The Setting

“And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.” Luke 14:1

“on the sabbath day” – Somewhere in Perea, Jesus was invited to a high-level Pharisee's home, a “chief” Pharisee, for sabbath dinner! This phrase, “chief Pharisees,” is only used here in the New Testament. We can surmise these are older, respected Pharisees with much experience and expertise. On Sabbath days, entertaining and meals after the synagogue service were normal, and this turned out to be quite the guest list: Pharisees, lawyers, Jesus, along with a very ill man. We know Jesus was aware of their wicked intent to trap Him or find an excuse to accuse Him of breaking the law, but that did not stop Him from taking the opportunity to attend and give truth to this very needy group of men. Remember, He ate and drank with all kinds of people, all sinners, and this was just another group of sinners, and Jesus desired to do them good.

“they watched him” – The Greek tense here has the idea of kept watching, closely watched, observed intently. There was no pleasant objective of hospitality from the host or his friends. They were critically watching Him. But Jesus went anyway! Why? He loved those Religious Leaders, a needy, ill man, and He wanted to give four important lessons!

II. Lesson 1 - Directed toward the Religious Leaders – “False thinking about the Sabbath ”

“And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy (Lit. - edema – a swelling due to fluid building up in tissues and cavities, usually caused by kidney, heart, liver disease or cancers). ³And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? ⁴And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; ⁵And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass (Gk - son – 2 to 1 in English translations) or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? ⁶And they could not answer him again to these things.” Luke 14:2-6

To Whom and Why – We find that Jesus directed this first teaching toward both the **lawyers**, those who were the teachers of the law, and the **Pharisees**. Notice the word, “behold.” It seems to indicate that this man suddenly appeared; it has a sense of surprise. We can safely say this was a setup to trap Jesus into defiling the Sabbath as the religionists saw it. **They believed in many sabbath restrictions that bound the people from the very purpose of the Sabbath. The Sabbath had become a burden and drudgery.** By this point in His ministry, Jesus had violated their Sabbath traditions seven times, and this will be the third and last Sabbath healing.

The healing – This healing begins and ends with questions from Jesus toward the lawyers and Pharisees. But before we look at those, let's look first at Jesus' gentle dealing with this afflicted man. Notice, the man with dropsy never spoke to Jesus, never asked for healing, never directed anyone to his ailment. But he would not have had to; his illness was obvious to all. Being suddenly thrust into the limelight among so many VIPs was surely not comfortable for him; we can be sure. So, how did Jesus handle him? With such gentleness. One of the characteristics of Jesus that has stood out to me over the years of my study has been His gentleness. It has been so convicting, maybe because I'm not naturally very gentle. Oh, how His gentleness has challenged me. Verse 4 tells us, "he took him, and healed him, and let him go." Simply, Jesus laid hold of him; the tenses might even suggest Jesus took him aside, away from the "watchful" eyes. Then, in a wonderful act of mercy, Jesus healed him and sent him away to a normal life, free of pain and discomfort, fully restored. This man's healing became evidence of Jesus' power and compassion!

Now, let's double back to the questions directed by Jesus to the Religious Leaders.

Two Questions for the Religious Leaders:

"Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?" – After the man with dropsy suddenly appeared at the dinner, we can imagine all eyes were on Jesus, knowing of His pattern of relieving the afflicted regardless of the day. But first Jesus wisely **set everyone's mind on truth, the truth of God!** His first move was to ask the Religious Leaders what their convictions were about the Sabbath Day. He asked them, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?" Now they were put into quite a dilemma. If they said no, they would look heartless and cruel; if they said yes, they would draw criticism from their peers. I want to remind you of another sabbath healing where a Religious Leader did speak to this question, and let's notice the reactions then. (Read Luke 13:10-17) So how did they answer Jesus' question here? They didn't! We are told they kept silent!

"Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway (Lit. – immediately without thought) pull him out on the sabbath day?" – After the healed man left, Jesus would not let the Religious Leaders off the hook. He faced them with the reality of their godless priorities. If one's child, or an animal, or something of loved or valued was in trouble, the law allowed one to help! Jesus had used this point over a year before in Galilee (read Matthew 12:9-14). Again, we just read how He used an argument much like this one some months earlier in Luke 13. Jesus summed up this truth by saying, "The Son of Man is Lord also of the sabbath." The Religious Leaders could not win this dispute about healings on the Sabbath because it was **so against God's heart!**

What was the result of this lesson for the Religious Leaders? Repentance? Did they fall down before Jesus and beg for forgiveness? No, only silence. Silence again! They had desired to trap Jesus with this ill man, but instead they were snared in their own trap! Jesus would severely denounce the Pharisees and Lawyers, yet it didn't bring them to repentance but just more hatred and a desire for retaliation! How sad!

How is this lesson applicable in our culture? In our churches? **We are seeing God's mind on rules and regulations set by religion that are not found in the Scripture!** These "commandments of men" are about control over people, and they are a burden! Jesus fought against the many made-up rules set around the sabbath when He walked this earth, and He is still displeased with religious rules made up without foundation in the Bible! We must be very careful not to fall into the thought that we must do or not do things not clearly taught in the Bible. This is what had happened in Jesus' day, and I'm afraid it still happens today!

It seems that Jesus now turns His attention to the rest of the guests. They too needed a lesson!

III. Lesson 2 - Directed toward the guests – “False thinking about humility” This parable of Jesus is unique to the Book of Luke. We only find it here.

“And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked (“when he noticed”) how they chose out the chief rooms (Lit. - places; location of seats); saying unto them. ⁸When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him; ⁹And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. ¹⁰But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship (Lit. - esteem; honor; glory) in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. ¹¹For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased (Lit. - humbled); and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (Lit. - honored).” Luke 14:7-11

To Whom and Why – In verse 7, we see that this next mealtime teaching was for the ears of those who were invited to the Pharisee’s home that day. The verse even tells us why Jesus told them this parable: “when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms.” Evidently, Jesus had watched His fellow guests maneuver and shuffle for the best seats in the house! It probably was comical to see them hurry and scurry like a bunch of children playing musical chairs!

Let’s begin by talking about the cultural situation that Jesus saw that day, and maybe we will realize that it isn’t much different today! When someone had a big meal with lots of guests in their home, like a wedding feast, most often there wouldn’t be enough space for everyone in one large room. Even if they had a large open area, the tables and seating would be spread out. The host would sit at the main table, with guests spread throughout the room or in adjacent rooms with set tables. No little name tags sat neatly on the plates when they arrived; no seating chart was at the door of the banquet room. The reality was, all rushed to the best seats in the house; and where was that? As close to the host as possible! Being invited to the right homes and placed in the right seats was a very big symbol of success and status. So, Jesus looked around at all His fellow guests and told them this story, desiring to point out their pride!

Jesus’ scenarios for seat selection:

Negative - “sit not down in the highest room” → “Give this man place” → “begin with shame to take the lowest room” v. 8-9 – Jesus places each person in His story. “When thou art bidden”/“lest a more honorable man than thou.” See how Jesus makes this parable personal! Listen to the progression here as He gives this very clear instruction: don’t come to a banquet and sit in the best seat in the house in case a closer friend, a family VIP...like Uncle Joe from way up north, who never gets to family functions, walks into the wedding reception! In Jesus’ story, the wedding host, with Uncle Joe beside him, looks over the banquet seating and eyes you; he comes over and says, “Give this man a place.” So, “with shame,” or embarrassed, you get up and guess what!? All the good seats have long been taken, and you end up with the only seat in the house! The “lowest” seat, the restricted-view chair, behind the door.

Instead, Jesus goes on...

Positive - “go and sit down in the lowest room” → “Friend, go up higher” → “have worship...of them that sit at meat” v. 10 – Jesus goes on and encourages the correct way of behavior when looking for a seat. He said, “go and sit down in the lowest room.” Take that back corner seat; let others have the front and center; be okay with being at the banquet, even if you might not be seen by many other guests. The

host may look around, see you behind the post, and say, “Friend, go up higher!” Jesus finishes the parable by saying, “then shalt thou have worship (honor, esteem, glory) in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.” Being called up is so much better than being set low!

Jesus’ Application:

“exalteth himself” -> “abased” vs. “humbleth himself” -> “exalted” v. 11 – Please know, this parable is not just a lesson on wedding banquet etiquette, but a general principle of **humility for life**: to live humbly in everyday situations! Pride and self-promotion are among the greatest sins of our human nature. Jesus takes this simple, everyday setting and shows how pride can play such a part in sitting at a banquet! He used this very visual, probably humorous incident to teach a spiritual truth to all of us! **Be humbled or be humiliated. Don’t self-promote yourself; be careful who you think you are!** Remember, a spiritually humble heart keeps all things in perspective; your sin, unworthiness, the value of others, God’s love, and His holiness. God honors and uses a humble heart. Like Jesus said, “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased (humbled); and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (honored, lifted-up, made great).”

This principle appears throughout the Bible. Let’s take a walk through the Scripture and see the importance God places on humility in the lives of His followers:

Old Testament: Job 22:29; Ps. 18:23; Ez. 21:26; Prov. 3:33-34; 6:16-17; 15:33; 18:12; **Proverbs 25:6-7** – We can see Jesus’ teaching here that day closely parallels this passage in Proverbs

Gospels: (Jesus will say this very clear statement two more times in His teaching before the cross.) Matthew 23:11-12, Luke 18:14

Epistles: (Lastly, we see the same principle of God written in the Epistles.) James 4:6-10

Teach BA#1

IV. Lesson 3 – Directed toward the Pharisee host - “False thinking about hospitality” Again, this lesson is unique to Luke’s gospel.

“Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner (lunch – mid-day) or a supper (dinner - evening), call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. ¹³But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: ¹⁴And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense (Lit. - repay) thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” Luke 14:12-14

To Whom and Why – This next lesson is directed to the host of the Sabbath dinner and challenges the concept that there was an expectation and even obligation to recompense one good party for another! Because Jesus told this parable, we must assume the host expected a payback dinner party from everyone who sat at his table that day. They were in debt to him for the invitation, a debt that could only be paid with a good meal!

But Jesus is going to give the mind of God on this selfish reason for hospitality.

“call not” – Jesus goes on to say **who should not be on the carefully crafted invitation list** for such a dinner. And who does He mention? **Friends, siblings, relatives, and rich neighbors.** As many of you know, our family is in the middle of wedding planning!! Our youngest daughter Chloe will be married at the end of May – 8 months from writing this! Right now, we are pouring over the guest list: who needs to be invited, who will

likely come, approximate numbers, chairs, what will be on the menu, decorations, rentals, dresses...oh, sorry...I digress!! As you can see, sometimes, like at a wedding, family, friends, and perhaps rich neighbors are on the guest list. But here Jesus is addressing the guest list for this man's lunch or dinner. He is saying – just don't call those who can turn and invite you back! That's not a reason to be hospitable. But instead, true kindness and generosity are displayed when you....

“call the” – Call and continue calling the **poor, maimed, lame, and blind!** The verb tenses tell us to make this your habit! **Jesus encourages hospitality beyond those who are easy to entertain, comfortable to have in, or who might return the favor with another steak!** The people on this list have no money, or strength, or means to repay! Remember, God's heart is always toward the needy, sick, and sad. We find this principle in the Old Testament. God told His people to always include the poor and needy in their celebrations. (Neh. 8:10-12; Esther 9:22) He has always desired His people to put the less fortunate at the top of the guest list!

“recompensed at the resurrection of the just” – Living with one's eyes on those less fortunate than you pleases God and promises **eternal reward**. Again, Jesus teaches the lesson of eternal reward when caring for others in Matthew 25:34-40. In this passage, Jesus said these beautiful words, “Come, ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” He then went on to tell them that they received this kingdom because they had cared for His needs. They were confused and asked when that had happened, He answered, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” (v. 40) Of course, we don't attain heaven because we entertain the poor, but it is wonderful evidence of obedience to the heart of God when we love others. Now, you can have a game night and pizza with friends, or a birthday party with all family on the guest list, but we must be careful that our lives don't center on rubbing shoulders with only our close-knit group. Eternal benefits come with generosity and charity to those outside of our immediate circle!

Teach BA #2

V. Lesson 4 – Directed toward the man who commented – but applicable to all hearers (Jews) - “False thinking about their place in the Kingdom”

“And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. ¹⁶Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: ¹⁷And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. ¹⁸And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. ¹⁹And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. ²⁰And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. ²¹So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes (broad streets and narrow alleys) of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. ²²And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. ²³And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges (public roadways and overgrown ditches), and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.”
Luke 14:15-24

To Whom and Why – This parable was given in reaction to a comment a man made during the Sabbath dinner, found in verse 15. “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.” Jesus had just mentioned the “resurrection of the just,” which may have prompted this phrase. Most Bible teachers believe this was a common saying among the Jews, reflecting the belief that all **good Jews would** one day sit with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets at the great Kingdom feast. They believed it was their rightful position as one of God’s chosen people! This man might have wanted to change the subject to something more comfortable and pleasant, and if he did, it didn’t work that way! Jesus will go on to give a very disturbing truth to those Jews. He will tell of their open rejection of God’s plan, and those who would actually fill the Kingdom!

“a certain man made a great supper, and bade many” – This is how ancient banquets and celebrations worked. Invitations were extended to the guests, but no specific time was given. They would have been given a general idea of when the banquet would happen, but a second call would be sent out when everything was prepared and ready! It’s certainly different in our culture. We invite the guests, they show up, and then when everything is on the table, we invite them to eat. But here in Jesus’ story, it was a “great supper,” and the host had “bade many,” and then sent out his servant to say,

“Come; for all things are now ready” – Please understand this point: no one declined the first invitation! They were invited, and not one said, “No, can’t come.” So, the host had prepared for every single person on the invitation list. But catch this,

“all with one consent began to make excuse” – The big word here is “all.” Jesus didn’t say “some,” or “many”; He said “they all!” and then gave examples of the excuses “they all” used!

“bought a piece of ground” – Recently, my oldest son Luke bought 40 acres of hunting and recreational land. Believe me, he knew what he was getting! Luke took Zeke, his younger brother, and they hiked around that property several times. They went through the trout stream, realized the land had a lot of thick buckthorn, many mature trees, and good evidence of wildlife. Luke definitely knew what he was buying. But in this excuse, the man said, “I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it.” No one does this! No one buys land without seeing it! This was flimsy excuse No. 1!

“bought five yoke of oxen” – Here’s flimsy excuse No. 2. In Jesus’ time, ten oxen would have been a huge investment, like one of those big combine grain harvesters we see here in Wisconsin taking corn out of the fields this time of year. I looked it up: a 2026 John Deere Combine starts around \$700,000, but fully loaded, whatever that means, runs a little over a million! I think we can safely say these ten oxen were a significant purchase, just like our modern machines! But notice, the farmer didn’t seem to do his homework on these animals; he evidently didn’t know what they could do. So he declined the invitation to the banquet and went out to check out the oxen!

“married a wife” – This is simply the strangest excuse. Weddings were planned out long in advance. Why agree to come to the banquet if you knew you'd just been married? And realize, no new wife would begrudge her husband an important event. This is flimsy excuse No. 3!

Again, please, keep in mind these weren't three guests with three weak excuses why they couldn't come to the prepared banquet. These are examples of the insincere excuses every single guest gave when they had initially agreed to come. The dinner was prepared, and instead of coming as promised, they gave feeble reasons for not coming. This was a great insult to the host! Everyone hearing Jesus' story that day understood that it wasn't that they **could not come**; the invited guests **didn't want to come**!

But the scene changes, and Jesus describes the host's reaction to the rejection of his guests.

"Go out...." These responses came out of anger as the host heard of the many excuses for why **no one** was coming to his now-prepared banquet! He was insulted and would not let his good food be wasted unenjoyed! So he sent out his servants to gather a new, appreciative crowd! First from the.....

"streets and lanes of the city" – He said that they should "bring in" the poor, maimed, halt, and blind. By very nature, these folks would have needed help to come in. I don't think that we in 21st-century America understand how many poor, maimed, halt, and blind people there would have been in Jesus' day. Often, people were poor simply because they lost everything in some kind of disaster. They weren't lazy, but bad things happened that left them very poor. Maimed would have been physically disabled because of the loss of use of a hand, foot, arm, or leg. Halt was similar, but most commonly meant someone who could not walk. Again, both would be very needy. Blind was the loss of eyesight. Can you imagine if we didn't have the intervention of modern medicines with their splints, and casts, and surgeries, and pins, and physical therapies, and antibiotics, and joint replacements of all kinds...how many poor, and maimed, and halt, and blind we would have! Just travel to a 3rd world country, and this is really what you see in the "streets and lanes" of their cities today.

But, even when all the streets and lanes of the city were cleared out, and these needy folks were brought into the great banquet hall, there were still open seats! So, the lord of the banquet told the servant to "Go out into the....:

"highways and hedges" – Notice we don't get a list of the desired guests to be brought in from the highways and hedges. But in reality, it was the homeless who lived along the roads and in the hedges. Not only were they from outside the city walls, but also outside what was acceptable and normal for such functions.

"compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" – It wasn't going to be necessarily easy to get the outsiders into the banquet. They would need to be compelled, convinced that they were worthy of such an honor! They would certainly be lonely and hungry, but someone actually wanting them to come in and dine in such luxury would be hard for them to fathom. And why was the host going to such extremes to have all those unlikely guests? Because he wanted his house full! He wanted every seat occupied, and every morsel enjoyed.

Notice that, as the host gave his last instruction to his servant, he gave another reason for going to such radical extremes to fill his banquet hall!

"none of those men, which were bidden shall taste of my supper" – No one originally invited would be able to change their mind and come. Their decision sealed their fate and cost them the opportunity to enjoy the feast. Every seat was to be filled; every bite of food was to be enjoyed by another. **They rejected the invitation, and the host, who had first invited them gladly, now rejected them.**

What does this all mean? – Let’s review what generated this parable. A man at the dinner blurted out, “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.” A phrase used by the Jews signifying their place at the long-awaited feast in the Kingdom! But in the parable, Jesus explained that they were sadly mistaken: though God had given the invitation to His Kingdom first to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; later to the nation through the prophets; and now through the coming of their Messiah, Jesus, they were actively rejecting it! But God was going to continue to bring in others, the Gentiles, the very ones Israel despised and thought unworthy; they would sit in the seats at the Kingdom feast they rejected. Wow!

But we certainly can take this a step farther; this is also a very realistic picture of the gospel message when given to man. The invitation to heaven is so simple! When a person hears the gospel of how God loved them, how He sent His Son Jesus to earth to die for the penalty of their sin, and all they have to do is put their faith in that work, they can come. But unfortunately, they reject this simple invitation with flimsy excuses much like those from the parable.

- Letting life become so busy that they don’t have time for God – not willing to make sacrifices; prioritizing the temporary over the eternal!
- Letting business and the pursuit of this world’s treasures take the place of the treasures of heaven; prioritizing the temporary over the eternal!
- Letting family ties and traditions take the place of the truths found in the Word of God; prioritizing the temporary over the eternal!

But our wonderful, loving Father, desires His heavenly banquet to be full and is “longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) So, He continues to send out His willing servants, messengers with the Gospel, to people made poor, and maimed, and halt, and blind, and homeless, and forgotten because of sin, but God loves them! And if they believe and come, they find open arms of forgiveness and a seat with God forever in His kingdom! Remember that Jesus “came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” These heard, came, and were “born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of [our great and loving] God.” John 1:10-13

Don’t let this temporary world and its busyness, pursuits of its treasures, or even the strength of family ties, stop you from prioritizing your eternal home with God. If you haven’t bowed to Him, confessed your inability to reach heaven on your own, and committed your life to Him, do it today!

As I prepared for this lesson, I read that this was the last passage of Scripture D.L. Moody preached from. It was November 23, 1899, and Moody and his team were in Kansas City, Missouri. He had been preaching and traveling for weeks; he was exhausted and suffering from congestive heart failure. His advisors told him to skip Kansas City and head home for the holidays and a well-deserved rest. But he would not, stating with conviction, “No, there are souls here who need the gospel.” That night, the Civil Auditorium in downtown Kansas City had no open seats, and Dr. Moody preached the gospel while gripping the organ for support. It was reported that fifty people received Christ that night and hundreds dedicated themselves to faithful Gospel ministry. Moody compelled people to come in until the very last.

If you have put your trust in Jesus, are you a willing servant, ready to go out into the streets and lanes, highways and hedges to compel and bring in needy souls? Are you willing to make yourself a bit uncomfortable by sharing Jesus with those you know and those you don’t know?! Work with little dirty children, teens who are hard to read, young adults who seem messed up, families who are broken, addicts of all kinds and ages. Are you willing?

I have heard people say that Jesus' teachings and parables are often disconnected from each other. That is such a ignorant statement. Here in this chief Pharisee's home Jesus taught four lessons, but they absolutely move together in wonderful harmony. Lesson 1 – the heart of God is on full display, His love, compassion, and mercy for all people on any day of the week! Lesson 2 - God always uses willing, humble workers! The proud will be humbled but the humble will be lift up and used! Lesson 3 – As a humble worker for God we must do so with our eyes on the needy around us. And lastly, Lesson 4 – “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” Oh, that we might live with these lessons burned into our hearts!

Believers' Application:

1. Pride is a destructive attitude. Let's look at several ways pride can bring ruin.

- Pride can ruin relationships . –
 - > A prideful person refuses to say, “I am sorry,” leaving fights unresolved.
 - > A prideful person does not take responsibility for mistakes.
 - > A prideful person prioritizes winning arguments instead of coming to a common resolutionAll of these show pride, and they hurt relationships. Home, work, church - wherever the prideful person goes, conflict follows because of their pride. Let's see what the Bible says about humility and relationships. Philippians 2:3-5; Colossians 3:12-14; Romans 12:10 (Humility puts others first and forgives.) If you find yourself in constant conflict and feelings that you are always wronged, check your pride.
- Pride can ruin learning -
 - > A prideful person cannot be taught or coached. They feel like they already “know it all.”
 - > A prideful person will not seek advice. Even in times of need or when they lack expertise, pride will keep them from seeking helpful advice.
 - > A prideful person will not grow personally from the constructive criticism of others. They miss opportunities to improve. Often, they lash out at the very people who seek to help them.Let's see what the Bible says about humility and learning. Proverbs 11:2; 12:15; 27:17. If you find yourself not liking personal instruction or correction, check your pride!
- Pride can cause loneliness -
 - > A prideful person constantly boasts or puts others down
 - > A prideful person will have very few people around them they respect enough to not criticize.The prideful person's circle of friends will always be small, and most often they have very few friends who will put up with their constant boasting or criticism. Ultimately, these prideful people are also friendless. Let's see what the Bible says about humility and boasting. Proverbs 25:27, 27:2; 2 Corinthians 10:12, 18 If you find yourself without many friends, check your pride!
- Pride will cause spiritual fall -
 - > A prideful person will not confess they are a sinner and ask God for forgiveness for sin
 - > A prideful person will not see their need to listen to God or learn from His word.
 - > A prideful person does not see their need for God because they are very self-dependent
 - > A prideful person will not bow their knee before God in salvation

Without humility, we will not come to God for His wonderful salvation! Let's see what the Bible says about humility and the ultimate spiritual fall! Proverbs 18:12; 1 Peter 5:5-7; James 4:6-10, Ephesians 2:8-9 If you find yourself boasting about earning your way to heaven, check your pride!

This is certainly a principle of God. I want to finish with a quote from the late pastor and teacher Warren Wiersbe. "Humility is a fundamental grace in the Christian life, and yet it is elusive; if you know you have it, you have lost it! It has well been said that humility is not thinking meanly of ourselves; it is simply not thinking of ourselves at all. Jesus is the greatest example of humility, and we would do well to ask the Holy Spirit to enable us to imitate Him. (read Phil. 2:5-9; Phil. 2:1-16)" WW p. 185

Wow, this parable is actually a wonderful and even humorous teaching of humility from the lips of Jesus! Yes, let's pray daily for humility and awareness of our ugly pride! Let's hate pride and seek to advance Christ and His kingdom over ourselves. Remember, God hates pride "but giveth grace unto the humble."

2. Hospitality, love, and generosity like Jesus. Ever think about how Jesus socialized and to whom He showed kindness? How did He live when among people? We desire and strive to be like Jesus, but have you ever considered this area of your life? Let's make a few observations, then offer some practical suggestions for being like Jesus in this area.

- Jesus' Example – Let's look at who Jesus chose to show kindness to, even when others wouldn't.
 1. Enemies – Luke 6:33-36 - In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the same principle of eternal reward for generosity. In this passage, Jesus commanded doing good and being generous to those deemed "**enemies.**" Those who don't really like us! Those we might have a hostile relationship with, often because of our faith in Jesus. (read Luke 6:33-36) We certainly see this on the day He spoke this teaching. Remember, He was in a Pharisee's home!
 2. Publicans and sinners – Luke 5:30-33 - Next, we see His care and love for those who were socially or religiously rejected. We know Jesus was constantly under scrutiny of the Religious Leaders because of His association with "**publicans and sinners.**" They hated His radical care and generosity to those they saw as unlovely and unworthy. But how did Jesus answer them? (read Luke 5:30-33)
 3. Children – Luke 18:15-17 - Another group Jesus opened His arms to were **children!** Yes, little ones. Even the disciples pushed them away during His ministry, and they were scolded for such an attitude. The children were vulnerable and pure of heart, and Jesus wanted them to be freely close to Him. And He still does! (read – Luke 10:13-16)
 4. Sick, sore, lame, maimed, and broken - Luke 6:17-19 – These dear people were constantly around Jesus. They knew He could heal them and give them new life, and you know, He still can give new life to the broken! Recently, at a baptismal service, our pastor said that he had been reflecting on our church and said, "You know, our church is full of broken people; who Jesus healed!" Yes, and of course, that is how every believer needs to see themselves: a broken person Jesus healed! And how did that happen? Because we realize Jesus loved us and desired us to come to Him for the healing of our soul! That has always been Jesus' heart! (read Luke 6:17-19)
- Our Hospitality & Socializing – **This lesson of Jesus is more than how to build a guest list for a party. It is our mandate of interaction with the world around us.**
 1. **Unbelievers** around us must hold an important place. God's people must maintain ties with them if we ever want to **win them to Jesus!** An invitation to dinner, game night, bonfire, Culver's custard, or Starbucks coffee with unbelieving neighbors, co-workers, teammates, or

friends from the gym, park, pool, or library could start a friendship that eventually leads them to the Gospel and changes the eternal direction for generations to come!!

2. Another group of people we must interact with if we would be like Jesus is **children!** Let's make sure our church's children's ministries are well stocked with good, well-prepared teachers and helpers! Children are special to God, and neglecting a ministry to them directly goes against His heart! I am eternally grateful to those in the churches I attended as a child who gave me opportunities to hear the gospel and principles of truth throughout my childhood. Sunday school, Awanas, Bible camps, and youth group played a vital part in my spiritual growth! I am so thankful to the people, most of them now in heaven, who gave their time and effort to make sure a little girl heard about Jesus!
3. But let me add one more area of hospitality and socializing. Ever see someone truly poor, maimed, lame, and blind? **Someone in need of help?** When was the last time you not only saw them but assisted them or, as Jesus teaches here, invited them over for food or gave them something? Jesus was not giving a new commandment with a promise of blessing to His followers, but it is found throughout the Old Testament (**read** Deut. 14:29). Wow! Well, in 2026, we need to be careful who we bring into our homes, but if God lays an act of charity or hospitality before you, are you obedient? Remember, these acts of charity are commanded of Jesus-followers, not of local food banks, FoodShare programs, or the like. This has been a challenge for me. To consider this principle and to act on it as God gives direction. Wow! Pray with me for a willingness to see the needy and bring them into our lives. Sounds Christlike to me!

The promise given here is eternal treasure! Let's finish with a reading from a disciple of Jesus, known as "the disciple Jesus loved," a very elderly John wrote this in **1 John 4:15-21**.