

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 14- Luke 14:1-6**

255- God's Mercy Amongst False Religion

September 14, 2014

Luke 14:1-6

1 It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on *the* Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely.

2 And there in front of Him was a man suffering from dropsy.

3 And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "**Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?**"

4 But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away.

5 And He said to them, "**Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?**"

6 And they could make no reply to this.

To the Glory of God

You and I began this Journey through Luke on Sunday morning, October 19, 2008- five weeks from being 6 years ago. This is the 255th Sermon in Luke. And we have followed Dr. Luke's account very closely and have covered a lot of territory. And I pray that your knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ has grown during this Journey as you have been able to sit in and listen to Jesus teach and see His mighty Power and Glory displayed.

I began this Journey Through Luke because we had already traveled through **Jude**, **1John**, and **Hebrews**, and were still in **Romans**, and so we had some very good foundational teaching from the inspired Epistles, and I wanted to get into one of the Gospel Records so we could

go through the earthly Ministry and Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ- our Lord and Savior.

It is from the Gospel Records that we have the very Essence of Biblical Christianity- which is that God Almighty took on flesh and became Man and was born of a virgin, and lived a perfectly sinless Life, and taught Truth and proved His Deity through signs and wonders and miracles, and God the Father laid all of the sins of all of God's elect on Jesus, and Jesus died with all those sins- satisfying the Righteous Justice of God. And Jesus took all of our sins down into the earth and three days later- Jesus was literally and physically raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father, and after convening with His Apostles for 40 days- this same Jesus physically and literally ascended into heaven- where He will return with great Power and Glory at some point in the near future.

And that day- the Return of Jesus- will be the single best day for all those who are truly saved, and it will be the single worst day for those who have spurned the Love of God and refused to repent and trust in His finished Work.

And so my goal in traveling on this Journey through Luke is to see Jesus higher than ever before, to hear Him more clearly, to love Him more dearly, to obey Him from the heart, and to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Now some have suggested that we don't need this type of indepth teaching today. Almost all of the books published in the last 50 years by the church growth gurus argue that teaching the Holy Scriptures authoritatively in a line upon line and precept upon precept manner in the 21st Century is to doom your church to always be small and always be struggling. These authors write to say that people today already know almost everything they need to know, and what they want to hear are practical teaching that will help them make more money and have more possessions and raise better children and have stronger marriages and lose weight and to otherwise have their "best life now".

Several years ago- I was in a long discussion with a local spiritual leader and he asked me, *"Why are you going through Jude in such detail- it's only 25 verses long"*. And I replied, *"Do you have a Bible?"* And he pulled it out and I said, *"Turn to Jude"*. And he did and I said, *"Look at verses 4. What does verse 4 mean?"* And this man said, *"I don't know and I don't care."* And I said, *"That's the difference between*

me and you. I don't know either- but I do care, and so I am studying to find out what it means, and that is why I am going through Jude in such detail- so I can know what God has said."

It is almost universal today to hear Church leaders cry out against *anyone* who would dare to teach Biblical Doctrine and Theology, and these so-called "experts" say that for a church to actually expect people to sit and listen to serious and deep sermons on profound eternal issues is a complete waste of time. And to expect parents to actually sit in Church with their own children with them on the pew is almost unthinkable.

And the result of all this madness is that we have church after church shortening the teaching and the preaching parts of the Sunday Service while expanding the music part of the service along with the games and the entertainment parts, and, instead- putting their money into machines that produce smoke and mirrors and special effects and all sorts of man-made tricks and tools to try to put people "in the mood" to love and serve God (I'm not making this up). And yet while all of this human engineered entertaining is going on in the "Name of the Lord"- people know less about the Word of God today than ever before and their lives are showing it. I hope you know that I couldn't disagree with these tactics more.

You see, as much as we would like to think that our narcissistic generation is the "best" or the "most important"- I don't believe that God makes people any different than He ever did. And, therefore, the great need of people today is the very *same* great need that people had 6,000 years ago- we need to know and understand Divine Truth- so that we may know and understand God. Listen to what the prophet Jeremiah wrote about this 1,000 years before Jesus was born in **Jeremiah 9:23&24:**

**23 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;
24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD .**

So I don't believe for a second that the capacity that people have today to desire to be taught Divine Truth is predicated on how much we

dim the lights or the musical acumen of our singers. I believe that the capacity that people have today to desire to be taught Divine Truth is in how much they are truly hungering and thirsting after Righteousness. I don't believe that the capacity for young people to love Jesus enough to actually obey and submit to what He said is predicated on how little that we expect out of them and in how much we entertain them- but rather that we challenge them to not waste their lives, and that they use the God-given strength and vitality and energy of their youth to risk it all in the dangerous pursuit of this radical Love of Jesus Christ.

I believe with all my heart that it is infinitely better to lose your life in the pursuit of making much of Jesus Christ than it is to waste your life on pursuing wealth and possessions and fame and recognition that is all passing away.

And so the people who are willing to not only sacrifice temporary comforts for the Cause of Christ- but who are willing to die to see Jesus known and exalted- are the people who before that- have died to self and crucified their flesh and mortified the deeds of the body and have already taken up their crosses.

I believe that God's true people pant after God- just like a deer pants after the waterbrooks- just like King David said 3,000 years ago. And I don't think that smart phones or special effects at the movies or so-called "peer pressure" at school changes that. I believe that saved people today bear the same fruit and walk the same pathway and talk the same talk and act the very same way as saved people did 6,000 years ago. I believe that Divine Truth is the lifeblood of the saints of God- it is what they eat and what they seek for on a daily basis. And so I don't think that lukewarm or unsaved people- who bear little or no fruit for Jesus- should dictate what the Church should be about. I believe that weak and unstable souls- who have little or no desire to pray or to study God's Word or to fellowship with people who are doing the other two things- need exactly what God's Word says they need when the Apostle Paul wrote this from **2Timothy 4:1-5**:

1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

I don't know how people can read that Passage and see exactly what Paul said was going to happen and know in their hearts that we are living in that time right now and not fall on their face and repent and beg God to save us from the superficial and shallow way that we serve the Lord today.

It is completely inconsistent to believe on the one hand that we are living in the last days and then not believe that one of the greatest signs of living on earth just before the Lord returns is that the people of God will become lukewarm and less spiritual and less Biblical and more worldly and more in love with money and possessions, and that we would not live in such a way that would convince the very many people that our Treasure is in Heaven and not on this earth.

So either we are not living in the last days or else we are living in the amazing and frightening time when the people of God will scarcely be able to even endure Sound Biblical Doctrine!

And so the duty and the responsibility and the joy of a true spiritual leader- who is not a hireling- is to give the people of God what they truly need and not simply entertain them with what they want. And what the Apostle Paul said here what the people of God desperately need today is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of the living God preached rightly and fully. And that is why I am preaching through Luke like this.

So we have 13 Chapters down and we have 11 Chapters remaining, and so we have past the half-way point of our Journey, and as we begin Chapter 14- we are in Jesus' final year of life. And the miracle of healing that is shown here on this man in this Passage is one of the last miracles that Jesus would perform until He is raised from the dead. So what we have left in the Gospel of Luke besides the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus is lots and lots of teaching, lots and lots of Theology, and lots of serious Doctrinal exposition coming from the very

lips of the greatest Teacher that the world has ever known. So we are in for quite a time.

Now remember that Chapter 13 ends with a pronouncement of Divine Judgment. In verses 34&35, Jesus says,

Luke 13:34-35

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *the city* that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not *have it!*

35 "Behold, your house is left to you *desolate*; and I say to you, you will not see Me until *the time* comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**'"**

Now notice that the word “**desolate**” in your Bible is in italics- meaning that the translators added this word for clarification because it was *not* in the original autograph that Dr. Luke wrote in the Greek. Whoever translated this part of Luke’s Gospel added the word “desolate” to make this passage read the same as the sister account over in **Matthew 23**- but the original statement by Jesus that Luke wrote was:

... Behold, your house is left to you...

... and this is a Divine Judgment pronounced against Jerusalem specifically and against the Jews, in general, for rejecting Jesus Christ and for not taking advantage of their time of Visitation.

So Jesus says here that He is finished dealing with the Jews for now- and this is the type of Divine Judgment that we have seen earlier in our Study called “The Judgment of Abandonment”, where God no longer restrains the evil in people and does not move to overpower their natural and normal tendency to rebel and hate God to save them, and God simply passively *allows* them to remain lost and depraved.

And the question that arises here at the moment of this Judgment and the Pronunciation of this Abandonment by God is how did they ever get to this point? How could it be that God Almighty took on flesh and came unto His Own people, and yet His Own did not receive Him? How could they be so blind? How could they be in such darkness? How could they not see it? How could they have developed such an apostate

religious system while they had the Old Testament opened and in front of them?

And there are two answers for the Jews:

1. They were fallen and depraved like everybody else, and so absent a Sovereign Move of God the Holy Spirit to forcefully give them eyes to see and ears to hear and a heart to believe they could not see and they could not hear and they could not believe. And they *could not* because they *would not* (Moral Inability).
2. They had been prepared in their religious viewpoints and convictions and beliefs by the demon led false teachers- who were very effective.

So they were in darkness and they loved the darkness rather than the Light because their deeds were evil- but they were also confirmed and strengthened in this deception by their man-made false religion which made the bondage even stronger.

And we have been over this- but it bears saying again- because you can't say this too many time. All other religions and human philosophies are, in fact, evil doctrines of demons. They cannot forgive a single sin and they cannot save a single soul. Every single human being who understands what these false religions teach and who believes in and puts his trust in what these religions teach will never see Heaven. That is how serious this is. All the other religions of the world, other than Biblical Christianity- including Judaism- are all totally wrong about the only thing that matters- and that is- how a sinful person can pass through God's Judgment on his life.

If it is true that we are saved by what we believe and confess and not what we do- then what we believe is paramount. So what we are taught matters, and people who teach false doctrine are emissaries of satan who are trying to distort or change or ignore or contradict what God has said. And Jude- the half-brother of Jesus told us in verse 4 of his Epistle that these people are not well meaning, but wayward souls, but are, in fact, people who are not save and will never be saved and who have been "marked out" by God for eternal Condemnation when he wrote:

Jude 4

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

So false teachers are the worst people on earth; they do the most damage and they hurt more people than any other manifestation of evil- because what they do affects people eternally. The Holy Scriptures warn us from cover to cover about false teachers and the deadly, eternally destructive impact they have on people's lives. This same Jude compared the false teachers to very vivid examples in his Epistle when he wrote:

Jude 12&13

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Now keep in mind that the Church had only seen three of the seven major roots of heresy by the time that Jude wrote his Epistle:

- ✓ Legalism
- ✓ Antinomianism
- ✓ Gnosticism

... and each of these three major heresies were perpetrated by Jewish rabbis- posing as true men of God. So as Paul wrote later on- satan, himself, is disguised as an angel of light, promoting false religion in order to capture men's souls. And all of satan's messengers are angels of light as well- they come offering Light, but they bring only darkness and death.

The OT prophet Hosea put it this way in **Hosea 4:6-9**

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

7 The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

8 They feed on the sin of My people And direct their desire toward their iniquity.

9 And it will be, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways And repay them for their deeds.

So people become like their leaders. And almost to a man- the Jewish leaders had categorically rejected Jesus as the Messiah. They called God Incarnate- Beelzebul. They taught that Jesus performed miracles through the power of satan. They had rejected the Testimony of God the Holy Spirit about Jesus which is what it means to blaspheme the Holy Spirit, and, thus, they had no way to be forgiven and saved. Yet they were not content with being damned themselves- they wanted others to be doomed as well.

Yet these Jews appeared to be "good". They were very moral people. They were fastidious about God's Law. They were outwardly very religious and very moral- yet they rejected Jesus- which made them evil.

But the average Jew on the street looked at these religious leaders as being the favorites of God and on the fast track to Heaven. And this was not just for them because this is the way it is with our world today. The assumption today- 2,000 years after this event- is that the "good" people go to Heaven while the "bad" people go to hell. And so the name of the game is to do all sorts of things to make yourself to be good- like be nice to people or be generous or take Communion or get baptized or attend Church or speak in tongues.

For example- John Hagee teaches that there are two ways for people to go to Heaven- one is for Gentiles to be saved through Jesus Christ and the other is for people to be born Jewish- because Hagee teaches the very same thing that these Pharisees taught- that Jews have a special deal worked out with God and they don't need the Forgiveness and the Salvation brought about through Jesus Christ.

Which is exactly what the Pharisees believed. In fact, they saw the Gospel of Jesus Christ as an attack and an assault against their own false religion (which it was) and that is why you have probably the most well-known and notable Pharisee on the pages of Scripture- the man by the name of Saul of Tarsus going around breathing out

threatenings and slaughters against the Christians, and thinking he was doing the will of God by killing Christians and slamming them in prisons.

So these Jews were driven by their religious beliefs. And we have gone over this in great detail as the Son of God came into direct conflict with them- assaulting them at the point of what mattered most to them- what they were teaching and what they believed. And right at the center of it all was the issue of the Sabbath.

They were the fastidious architects of popular Judaism, which dominated the thinking of the people at the time of Jesus and before and after. And when Jesus came and told them that the system was not of God, and that it would not usher them into the kingdom of God, he became their archenemy. The truth of the matter is that those religious leaders, as zealous as they were, as passionate, as loyal to their system as they were, as careful as they were, were driving people away from the kingdom of God.

Now what is amazing is that these Pharisees were the religious conservatives of their day. So as Jewish society moved more toward worldliness and secularism and paganism and materialism and idolatry- it was the Pharisees who called the people to be faithful to Scripture, and in order to help them be faithful to Scripture- they created all kinds of additional laws and rules and regulations to put big fences and insulation round the Truth. In other words, because they were worried that you might break a Law that God gave- the Pharisees made five other laws- so you wouldn't even get close to breaking God's Law.

So everything they taught centered on them revering the Law of God. So they took this man-made religious system of human morality to the people and the people bought into it. They were the ones who took the Scriptures to the people and taught and explained what they meant. And they were against any corrupted form for Judaism such as the Sadducees and the Zealots and even the Essenes.

Another amazing fact is that the Pharisees were characterized by strong doctrine. So when they engaged in questions with Jesus- they were always questions about doctrine. In fact, they were so committed to the teaching of the law of God and its doctrine, that in Matthew 23 where Jesus denounces them, He begins by saying

The scribes and Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses.

... which means that they've taken the position of replacing Moses as the authority regarding the Law- so they were strong on the Law- which is why Jesus said,

... therefore all they tell you do and observe.

In other words- when the Pharisees tell you what Moses said, when they explain the law of Moses- observe it and do it because their doctrine was strong. And so Jesus' Theology was closer to the Pharisees than any other Jewish group which really doesn't mean much because Jesus never said anything good about them.

But not only were the Pharisees strong in doctrine- they were absolutely committed to the concept of Scriptural Authority. They didn't equivocate on the inspiration or the inerrancy of Scripture. They believed and taught that the OT was the Word of God. In fact, every time a synagogue meeting occurred, somebody read the word of God out loud- publicly- just like we do today. The Scriptures were taken out and they were unrolled and they were handed to someone and they were read and then the teacher sat down he explained what he just read. And that's what Jesus did back in Luke 4. So the Pharisees were all about the Authority of the Word of God.

And, amazingly- these false teachers were also committed to moral living. So they had strong doctrine, scriptural authority, and moral living. So they did have a righteousness- they had a level of morality. The Apostle Paul says that they had a righteousness and going about trying to develop their own righteousness- they had refused to submit to the Righteousness of God that only comes through Jesus Christ.

And even though a few Pharisees were saved like Paul and Nicodemus and a few others- for the most part- these men actually despised Jesus. They were very hostile to Jesus and always questioning Him- trying to trap Him. But they were religious and devout and zealous and moral and studious and serious and vigilant and protecting scripture. They were charitable and they had a type of righteousness. And yet all of that meant absolutely nothing- because Jesus Himself

called them spiritually blind and said their father was the devil himself. So there was great hostility and great tension between Jesus and these religious hypocrites.

And with all of this going on- verse 1 says that Jesus went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread.

Now the word **“leader”** here has to do with him being a very prominent Pharisee. And these guys loved to have meals- which was an important part of life in the ancient near east, and they did it all the time. And these dinners were times of hospitality and times of fellowship, and, of course, for these guys it was a time for them to get with their cronies and to re-enforce and reaffirm themselves in the eyes of the people. So they would only invite those people that would elevate them. So this would be a meeting of the rich and the elite scribes and Pharisees.

And verse 3 says,

"Jesus spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees."

... so while the meal was at the house of one of the leaders- there were many other Pharisees and scribes who were present there. So it was a gathering of the elite. They always thought to find the status among the people and yet at the same time they kept themselves distant from the people, they feeling themselves superior to the people. They wanted to make sure they kept away from the outcasts and the rejects. Very exclusive, very separated- which does raise the question of how Jesus got there.

Now on a typical Sabbath Day these Pharisees would go to the synagogue and they would have their service at the synagogue, and then they would go to lunch which would last for a long time. And this particular lunch on that particular Sabbath day is about to be dominated by Jesus all the way down to verse 24 as we'll see in the coming weeks, but it starts by Him arriving to join them on a Sabbath to eat bread.

Now notice what Luke says at the end of verse 1:

... they were watching Him closely.

Now this is not the kind of **“watching”** that some of you are doing to me right now because you are trying real hard to learn. This kind of **“watching”** here in Luke 14 is sinister. The verb has to do with watching with suspicion. It means to spy in an insidious fashion. So the only reason why they had invited Jesus to be there was so they could set Him up. And I have had some very small examples of this kind of sinister sinful **“watching”**- where people would record private conversations that they had with me so they could trap me. But even though I didn't know anything about it- God moved and the evil in their hearts was exposed. So this kind of “watching” was not because they loved Jesus and were trying to pay close attention so they could be saved and obey Him- but they were watching Him to trap Him so they could destroy Him.

Now understand that keeping the Sabbath was the high point of their entire effort of law keeping, and, therefore, it was the potential high point of their week for law breaking as well. So for a Jew- law breaking or law keeping reached its zenith around the issue on the Sabbath and the endless regulations that made the effort to comply impossible- so that the Sabbath became anything but a day of rest. So these guys wanted Jesus to violate the Sabbath which would prove that He was not from God.

So their ridiculous adherence to their man-made rules about the Sabbath caused them to miss the larger point of how in the world did Jesus actually heal this man- unless He was of God. People just didn't get healed like this. But all these men could think about was that in their twisted understanding about the Sabbath- healing was against their rules.

But the Bible never said that. There's nothing in the Bible about you can't go to the doctor or you can't get well on a Sabbath Day. There's nothing in the Old Testament that says you can't be doctored, or you can't be cured, you can't be cared for in any sense of the word on the Sabbath.

So the basic rabbinical rule was that you could only be doctored, you could only be cared for, you could only be cured or ministered to if you're going to die immediately on the Sabbath. But if it's not death imminent, wait till the Sabbath is over. But Jesus has absolutely no respect for that foolishness and that lack of compassion- that is simply wicked legalism- that cannot save anybody.

Now the particular problem that this man had is called by Dr. Luke here as “**dropsy**”, which is a term used to describe a filling of the soft tissue with water- which could indicate congestive heart failure. Back in the 1st Century, however- many people thought that swelling and edema was caused by sexually transmitted disease. So it is possible that this man was considered by these Pharisees to not only be sick but also to be judged by God.

Remember that most diseases back then were described by their symptoms and not by their pathology. So Jewish rabbinical view of somebody who was in this condition was that they were a vile sinner because this ailment was related to sexual sin, or that it was a serious uncleanness because it was related to the body's failure to eliminate. In either case, this is either a wicked immoral man or a very unclean man.

So the Pharisees saw Jesus healing this man as being counter to the Judgment of God that was obviously against him. So there was no way that this man would have been invited to lunch- unless he was there for a purpose. So it's pretty clear what the set up was. The Pharisees allowed this supposedly vile sinner to come before Jesus and when Jesus heals him- they can accuse Him of counteracting God's Judgment against a sinner- making Jesus complicit in this man's sins.

You see, these Pharisees already know exactly how Jesus feels about their ridiculous laws because as we have seen earlier- He told them very clearly. So these men are actually baiting Jesus to violate their man-made rules. But look how Jesus responds in verse 3:

Luke 14:3

And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?"

Now Jesus already knew the answer. The answer was it was not lawful in their twisted view to heal or to do good to anybody on the Sabbath. That was their false understanding. And that is exactly what the man said back in Chapter 13,

There are six days for this kind of stuff. You don't do this on the Sabbath.

So in their view- this edema was not immediately terminal- so this guy should just wait until the Sabbath was over. But even though they had already made up their mind about the Sabbath- they knew that this looked terrible in the eyes of the people, and so this time- Dr. Luke says that they didn't want to answer Jesus.

Now this is typical of people who are trying to trap somebody. They already know what they are doing and so they want to put their best foot forward and get out of the way and allow Jesus to incriminate Himself. So now look at verse 4:

Luke 14:4

But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away.

Now when Luke says here that Jesus “**took hold of him**” this is a very strong verb in the Greek. And it was used one other time by Luke in **The Acts 16:19** when he said,

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,

So Jesus literally wrapped this man up- this bloated man with sick organs manifested in this edemic condition. And He did it without hesitation and He did it forcefully and He did it publicly and unmistakably. He did it defiantly. So instead of keeping His distance in healing the man out of compassion in such a way as it might not be clear what exactly had happened- Jesus grabs the man, seizes him, crushes him in His arms as if to squeeze the fluid out and gives him a new heart, a new liver, and a new anything else he needed, and creates in the man a whole new set of internal organs. And then Luke says:

... and sent him away.

Remember that Jesus knew why the Pharisees had brought this sick man there- to trap Him, and so now that the deed is done and the die is cast, so to speak, and Jesus has healed this man and sealed His Own fate with these self-righteous hypocrites- so now- He just sent him away.

So this is just underscoring the fact that this man was never a guest for any purpose other than this. And so Jesus healed him, instantly, completely. Miracles, by the way, are rare in this section of Luke. Jesus spends most of His time teaching and preaching. There's just a few...just a couple of miracles really from here on out. The simplicity of this text is just staggering. As you read- you see the ease with which Jesus heals with no effort and no fanfare. This is truly the Power of God! And so at that moment Pharisees had what they wanted- they thought. Here they had gotten Jesus to violate the Sabbath. And in their mind- Jesus violated it by healing an unclean sinful man- who was under Divine Judgment. What a law breaker He is! Would to God we would all be lawbreakers like Jesus!

But before they could say anything, before they could level their accusations- Jesus He said to them in verse 5,

Luke 14:5b

... Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?

... which was publicly exposing their absolute hypocrisy because every single one of them would have done anything they could to free their own child or even their plowing animal- yet they would coldly refuse any treatment for this man. So they were perfectly willing to allow this man to continue on suffering- just as long as they could use him to trap Jesus. How do you get so evil? Now look at verse 6:

Luke 14:6

And they could make no reply to this.

So their silence continued. They had nothing to say. Absolutely nothing. Why? Same thing as back in 13:17 in that similar situation after He said this. All His opponents were being humiliated. They were just publicly humiliated. They just sat there in complete humiliation with nothing to say. Jesus had exposed the hypocrisy that was in their hearts. Everybody knew that they would rescue their own son and their own ox even on the Sabbath.

Now the point of all this is this: There are some things that transcend the silly rules of these evil men. Over in Chapter 20:26- the

good Doctor said they were unable to catch Jesus in anything He said. And so marveling at His answer, they became silent with nothing to say.

So this is how lunch went that day. And I don't think it was what they had planned at all- but it's what they got. And it doesn't get any better than this. God shows Mercy right in the middle of all this false religion.

So a person can be devout and faithful and outwardly good, and a person can be serious about God to some extent, and they can be a defender of their man-made religion, and they can be very conservative and seemingly be a protector of God's Will. And they can be the very best outwardly moral of all they people, and you can do all of that and still reject Jesus Christ. And when you reject Jesus- your life is nothing but a blasphemy to God. It is a slander to His name and you are left in spiritual death and eternal judgment. And these religious men are a frightening illustration of that.

They had no signs of the Life of God in them. They lacked Compassion. They lacked Mercy. They lacked Kindness. They loved Money. They were spiritually proud. They were hypocrites. They were self-righteous. And they sought to not only categorically reject Jesus as being God in human flesh- they sought to trap Him and kill Him.

So we need to be reminded that there's only one way to Heaven and that's through faith in Jesus Christ. No other religion will get you there- but they will sure keep you from getting there. You reject Jesus Christ and there never will be a place for you among the forgiven in God's eternal Heaven. So kiss the Son lest He be angry, and run to Jesus now for Salvation.

Amen. Let's pray.