

## The Gospel of Luke

### Jesus Confronts His Adversaries at Lunch

Luke 14:1-14

1. **Jesus Confronts the Blindness of His Adversaries** (vs.1-6)

The pharisees remained resolute in their opposition to Jesus while continually seeking to destroy Him (Matt. 12:14; Luke 22:2). They are so committed to their goal that they are no longer satisfied to merely wait for an opportunity to find fault with Him (Luke 11:53-54; cf. Luke 5:21; 6:1-5; 7:39; 13:10-17).

A. **They Invite a token Sick Man To Test Jesus** (vs.1-2)

The prominent, yet temporary (cf. v.4), presence of a sick man at a meal in the house of a leader of the Pharisees makes it apparent that they had set Jesus up for a confrontation. They closely observed Him in order to see whether or not He would observe their sabbath traditions.

B. **Jesus Asks a Question and Heals the Man** (vs.3-4)

The application of the complex pharisaical rules which forbid work on the sabbath (cf. Luke 6:1-5) essentially only allows that healing work can be done in order to save a life. Jesus disregards these manmade manipulations and springs the trap set for Him as He heals the man (cf. Luke 13:12).

C. **Jesus Illuminates their Obstinance** (vs.5-6)

God commanded that His people be compassionate even to the animals of an enemy (Deut. 22:4), and His Word shows that caring for people is far more important than caring for plants or animals (cf. Jonah 4:11). In doing all of this Jesus also showed compassion upon the Pharisees by giving yet another opportunity for repentance.

2. **Jesus Confronts the Boastfulness of His Adversaries** (vs.7-11)

Having been unable to entrap Jesus sufficiently, the meal progresses as usual. But as Jesus turns His gaze upon them, He observes that their penchant for applying extra-biblical standards that they have made it customary to disregard biblical wisdom (cf. Prov. 25:6-7). Pride toward men is indicative of a far more serious problem, for pride has no place before God (Luke 19:14; cf. Ps. 138:6; Prov. 3:34; 16:18; 29:23; Matt. 23:12; Ja. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5)

3. **Jesus Confronts the Bias of His Adversaries** (vs.12-15)

By way of hyperbole (cf. Luke 14:26) Jesus instructs the host not to invite only those who can reciprocate in turn (cf. Matt. 6:16-21; Luke 12:33). Partiality is a sin that must not be expected nor tolerated (cf. Ja. 2:1ff).