

"Stuffed On Self"

Luke 14:1-6

Get to know each other: Before God saved you, what did you strive after in life and never found contentment? What was it like after you were saved?

LEARN

1. Read Luke 14:1-6. What stood out to you from the passage and sermon?
2. What do you observe the Pharisees doing in this passage? What other passages reflect this same theme, and how do the Pharisees respond each time?
 - a. Similar occasions takes place in Luke 6:6 & Luke 13:10. Each meal takes place after hostility with the religious leaders which builds tension. They were watching Him closely to see if He was going to violate the Sabbath in order that they might find reason to accuse Him - they weren't actually there to commune with Jesus.
3. What was the significance of dropsy in the passage? What does it represent?
 - a. In the Greco-Roman world, dropsy was seen as the consequence of glutton (thus often used as a metaphor for greed and lust); Dropsy was a label for money lovers (loaded with money, crave more of it yet that is to their demise because their desires increase the more they acquire the objects of their craving) e.g. the more he drinks, the thirstier he grows - the thirst of the sufferer never ceases, impossible to satiate (similar to the sin of greed for continual gain without correcting the vice in the soul)
 - b. Metaphorical significance of dropsy is of key importance: for consuming passions, gluttony and greed (unhealthy cravings that plague humans and stifle life); unquenchable desire for more of what you already have (that won't satisfy). It's a bit ironic that a man suffering from dropsy which was associated as consequences of gluttony, lust, and greed was at a meal where he didn't eat, but left satisfied by Jesus. In contrast, those who were eating with Jesus with gluttons inwardly because they were stuffed with themselves and left the meal unsatisfied.

Video: "How can I commune more closely with God?" by H. B. Charles Jr. (2:24)

PRACTICE

1. Which sermon point is most applicable to you? Is your communion with Christ, contentment with Christ, or contagiousness of Christ squandered because “you’re stuffed on self?”
 - a. Reflect on stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. Or, is there something that you desire so badly, that it interferes with your communion with Christ and finding satisfaction in Him alone?

2. What does it look like to “put Jesus on trial” vs coming to receive Him as the justifier?
 - a. “Putting Jesus on trial” can be a result of losing sight of what Christ has accomplished for us in our salvation despite our sin against Him. We can forget the price of our cleansing by His blood, but also disregard the grace of a promise to dwell with God in eternity. When the aforementioned is forgotten, we can fall prey to putting Jesus on trial by questioning circumstances in our life.
 - b. Examples: judging others; are you lacking faith and focusing on a negative/unanswered prayer (discontentment?); are you coming to Jesus to confess or complain about someone else; are you more interested in the fleshly desires of your heart (Jeremiah 17:9) rather than the desires and plans of God?

3. How do you find peace and contentment in Christ?
 - a. Leaders: Consider spending some time discussing how a Christian can answer this question, and interweave a Christ-centered testimony/gospel presentation.
 - b. Peace and contentment in Christ comes from having the *shalom* of God and feeding on His word and communing with Him in prayer. We have the means of grace in the local church to remind us of the good news and our identity in Christ. There is a blessedness that comes with a reverential fear of the Lord.

CHANGE

1. The sin and consequences of gluttony and seeking satisfaction apart from Christ are central in this passage. Where are you looking to the world for fulfillment? Have you been consumed with restlessness and dissatisfaction? How can you turn your appetite toward Christ instead?
 - a. First, where are you not satisfied? Do you think you deserve to be satisfied by something other than Christ? Is there something that you’re continually striving for or that you desire more than Christ?

- b. (These are tough questions, but something that should be examined. We know nothing should come before Christ and we'll verbally state that, but do our thoughts/desires, pursuits, and use of time demonstrate the same?)
- c. Leader passages for encouragement 2 Corinthians 12:9 "my grace is sufficient for you", Isaiah 55:1 "come, all you who are thirsty", 1 John 2:17 "the things of this world are wasting away", Ps 63:5 "My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich good, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."