

08 – Hardness of Heart **Luke 14: 1- 6**

Step 1: Introduction

We start a new chapter today. We're reading the story of Jesus in the book of Luke, and we start chapter 14 today.

Step 2: Background (Sabbath, Pharisees, the law)

In the last chapter, chapter 13, we talked about the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a special day of the week. Do you remember why the Sabbath was special - ? (. . .) The Sabbath was special because of the creation of the world. The Bible teaches that God created the world in six days. Do you remember what God did on the 7th day - ? (. . . *He rested*) God rested on the 7th day, and He made the 7th day of the week a day for rest.¹ What did God say to do on the Sabbath - ? (. . . *rest, worship, not work ...*)

In our story today, Jesus was invited to eat with the Pharisees. Who are the Pharisees - ? (. . . *religious teachers, enemies of Jesus*) The Pharisees were very sure that good and pure people were going to heaven, and that bad and unclean people were not going to heaven. But Jesus was friendly with bad and unclean people! The Pharisees did not understand Jesus. The Pharisees did not want to understand Jesus. The Pharisees wanted to prove Jesus wrong.

Step 3: Key Questions

- **How did the Pharisees watch Jesus?** (*v.1 carefully*)
- **How did the Pharisees answer Jesus?** (*v.4, 6 they didn't ...*)

Step 4: Read **Luke 14: 1 - 6**

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

The Pharisees were watching Jesus carefully. Where did Jesus go to dine - ? (. . . *v.1 at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees*) Do you think it is strange that the ruler also invited a sick person - ? (*for thought*) Sick people were

¹ In Jesus' time, the Sabbath was Saturday, the 7th day of the week. After Jesus rose from the dead, believers changed the Sabbath to Sunday, the 1st day of the week. Every week in church we remember that Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday.

unclean. The Pharisees did not like to be around people who were unclean. But this ruler invited a very sick man.

It was the Sabbath. Why were the Pharisees watching Jesus carefully - ? (. . . *to see what He would do.*) It was a test! Would Jesus heal the man? On the Sabbath?

So it seems that the Pharisees were not really very nice hosts. Jesus did heal the man. But what did he ask before he healed the man - ? (. . . v.3)

“Is it lawful?” Jesus means, “Is it in the Bible?” The clear answer is “No!” But some Pharisees were teaching that it was wrong to heal on the Sabbath.

After Jesus healed the man, he asked another question. What question did he ask - ? (. . . v.5) Of course pulling a child or an animal out of a well is hard work. Do you think that the Pharisees would pull their child out of a well on the Sabbath day - ? (. . .) I do!! Of course any good father would pull his child out of a well on any day! So Jesus’ question seems like an easy question. Why didn’t the Pharisees answer - ? (. . .)

The Pharisees had very hard hearts. They did not want to believe in Jesus. If the Pharisees believed in Jesus they would have to change everything! They would not be teachers! They would be learners, students! They would lose their high position! It would be very hard for them to change.

What about you? Do you want to believe in Jesus? (. . .)
What would you lose if you believed in Jesus? (. . .)

These are two very important questions to ask yourself this week.

Do you have any questions or comments?