

**Note:** *This chapter is built around Jesus attending a sabbath dinner at the home of an important Pharisee. On the way, Jesus heals a man suffering from dropsy (the swelling of bodily tissues). Fanaticism often causes blindness and can lead a person to deny the principles of justice, charity, and humanitarianism.*

1. What question did Jesus propose to the lawyers and Pharisees about healing on the sabbath? (Luke 14:3)
2. Why do you think they remained silent and did not answer Jesus? (Luke 14:3-6)
3. When Jesus was standing at the Pharisee's home entrance for the dinner, what did Jesus notice that inspired his parable of the wedding feast? (Luke 14:7)
4. Humility is so necessary for salvation that Jesus takes every opportunity to stress its importance. What did Jesus say would be the benefit to those who did not assume to be the most important? (Luke 14:10-11)
5. One of the dinner guests, a Pharisee, hearing Jesus' unusual hospitality recommendations (Luke 14:12-14), said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" (Luke 14:15)
  - a. How do you think the Pharisees of Jesus' day envisioned "the kingdom of God"?
  - b. Do you think Jesus envisions the "kingdom of God" differently, and what are the differences?
6. What is Jesus' advice about whom to invite when hosting a luncheon or dinner, and why is it important? (Luke 14:12-14)

**Note:** *In Jesus' day, invitations were customarily issued in two phases. The first was given far in advance of the meal, and the second when everything was ready (Esther 5:8; 6:14). Does this remind you of our current practice of sending out "Save the Date" notices?*

7. In the parable of the great banquet, assume the great dinner is a symbol of the kingdom of God.
  - a. Who does the host of the banquet symbolize? (Luke 14:16)
  - b. Who do the slaves/servants symbolize? (Luke 14:17)
  - c. Who do the invited guests who make excuses symbolize? (Luke 14:18-20)
  - d. Who do the poor, crippled, and lame people of the town symbolize? (Luke 14:21)
  - e. Who do the people in the roads and lanes "compelled" to come in symbolize? (Luke 14:23)
8. What are some qualifications for becoming a disciple of Christ? (Luke 14:26-27)
9. How do the parables of the tower-builder or the king with his army apply to those who believe they are true disciples of Jesus? (Luke 14:28-32)
10. How does the image of salt apply to those who want to be Jesus' disciples? (Luke 14:34-35)

***If you would like a challenge?***

11. What kind of risk is connected with taking the lowest place at table? What might be some of the benefits of such an action? (Luke 14:10)