

Hearts Prepared for His Feast

Luke 14:1-14 ▪ March 22, 2026 ▪ Jeremy Winkelman

A heart of _____ instead of _____. (1-6)

A heart of _____ instead of _____. (7-11)

A heart of _____ instead of _____. (12-14)

Luke 14:1-14

¹ One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ² And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴ But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵ And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶ And they could not reply to these things.

⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Share about a time you saw someone go out of their way to help another person, even when it wasn't convenient?

Read & Discuss: Luke 14:1-14

1. Jesus heals a suffering man in front of people who are watching Him closely (vv. 1–6). Where do you feel the tension between compassion and self-protection in your life right now? What are you afraid might happen if you choose compassion in that situation? What helps you move toward people in need rather than defaulting to indifference, caution, or self-prioritization?
2. In verses 5-6, Jesus exposes the disconnect between the Pharisees' strict following of rules and their willingness to help an animal in distress. If someone watched you closely (like the Pharisees watched Jesus), what might they conclude that you value more than people? How would you teach someone you were discipling to grow a heart that sees people the way Jesus does?
3. When Jesus notices guests choosing the places of honor (vv. 7–8), He uses the moment to teach about humility. Why do you think we tend to be drawn to recognition, status, or being seen as important? What are some modern-day "places of honor" that we find ourselves striving for—whether in our careers, social circles, or even the church? How does deliberately resisting this drive for status reshape our relationships and our character?
4. Jesus says, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (v. 11). What does humbling yourself actually look like in everyday life? How is this different from simply having low self-esteem or being self-deprecating?
5. In verses 12-14, Jesus challenges the host to invite people who cannot repay him. When you do something kind, how do you know if you're secretly hoping for something in return—approval, appreciation, influence, or future benefit? Why is it often much harder to show kindness when there is zero chance of a "return on our investment"?
6. Jesus promises a reward at "the resurrection of the just" (v. 14). How does keeping an eternal perspective change the way we handle our self-interest today? What are some practical ways we can move from transactional relationships (where we expect something back) to selfless ones?
7. This passage reveals three heart postures Jesus desires: compassion, humility, and selflessness. Which of these feels most natural to you, and which feels most challenging right now? Why?

Apply: What is one practical way you can reflect Jesus' heart this week through compassion, humility, or selflessness?

Pray: Ask God to soften any callousness in our hearts and replace it with compassion. Pray for a spirit of true humility that finds its worth in being known by God rather than being honored by men.