

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Prayerfully read Luke 14:1-6
- Does anything stand out to you?
- Why do you think this passage is here?

Sermon Questions: This will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- How do we know this is the beginning of a new section in Luke?
- What is the question we need to be asking as we look at a story like this if we are going to understand it?
- Do you properly understand the meaning of a story if you can summarize the content without appreciating the significance?
- What does Luke say is the purpose of the stories he is telling about Jesus? How does that help us understand what he wants to happen in us as a result of studying this story together?
- What claim did Jesus make in Luke 13:33,34 and how may that help us understand what Luke may be doing in this story?
- What comes into your mind when you hear the word Pharisee and how might that be different from what came into the mind of someone in Jesus' day?
- Jesus is looking at the most respected religious teachers in his day and saying they are completely wrong. What question should that cause us to ask? What do we need to know?
- In Luke 13, we see Jesus' healing on the Sabbath and what is he claiming in that story? Here in Luke 14, see him healing on the Sabbath and what is he doing in this story?
- How does Luke indicate that it is surprising to see this man with dropsy in the Pharisee's house?
- Why is he here?
- What are the Pharisees doing at the end of verse 1 and what does that tell us about their motives?
- What does the fact that Luke says Jesus responded to the Pharisees and lawyers tell you about what is happening in this story?
- What question does Jesus ask?
- Why is there so much talk about the Sabbath and what to do on the Sabbath in Luke? Why is this such an appropriate question for Jesus and the Pharisees to be debating about?
- Jesus asks the Pharisees two questions in this passage and how does Luke say they respond?
- How does the fact that this idea is repeated help you understand the point of this passage?
- What is significant about the fact that Luke says they could not answer these things? Think about the word could not.
- So what were the Pharisees trying to do at the beginning of this passage, and what happened instead?
- What does this tell you about Jesus?
- How does knowing and seeing this about Jesus make a difference in our lives right now?

Sermon Outline: A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.

I am not going to give you an outline exactly today. Let me tell you why.

When you are structuring a sermon, you can choose to follow a deductive or inductive approach.

What is the difference?

Basically a deductive sermon states the main point at the beginning and then offers supporting evidence. One strength of this kind of sermon is that it is often very clear. One weakness is that it may not create interest or challenge the listeners to think. An inductive sermon on the other hand walks you through the passage, looking at each piece of the passage and ends with the main point.

One strength of this kind of sermon is that it helps the audience be more engaged, forces them to think, and has more of an 'aha' moment at the end as the pieces of the puzzle are finally put together and the congregation sees the point. A weakness is that the audience has to be willing to think and be patient as the preacher takes them on a bit of a journey through the passage. An inductive sermon will feel a bit more like listening to a story, where a deductive sermon will feel a bit more like listening to a lecture. Both approaches are valid and helpful! It's important to remember the Bible has different genres. Generally, as a preacher you want to respect the form and intention of the text itself. As a result, when you are preaching an epistle you will often take a more deductive approach and when you are preaching narrative, inductive is generally more appropriate. (Think about someone trying to explain a movie by giving you an outline and lecture. That's possible and perhaps sometimes helpful. But you may not really get the impact of the movie quite as strongly as the director intended.)

Obviously, that's a lot of information about preaching under a section called sermon outline. But the reason I am explaining this is because while this particular sermon has a definite structure, I am not giving you the simple kind of three point outline that you may be familiar with. So how will this message flow? Here's what is going to happen. I am going to begin this message by taking some time to helping you appreciate the question this story is intending to answer, then show you why that's a real and even urgent question, and demonstrate how this passage answers it by looking at the various details, and conclude by trying to apply what we have learned about Jesus to our lives.

Synopsis: This is a VERY short summary to help you reflect on the message.

We are going to look at Luke 14:1-6 and see how great Jesus is. We are going to do that by comparing him to the religious teachers of his day. At first looking at Jesus' relationship with the religious leaders in his day may cause us to ask some questions about Jesus. After all, they were pretty much all opposed to Jesus. So why should we trust Him? How is he better? Did He prove we should listen to Him and not them? As we study this passage together, I hope you will see the way Jesus' healing on the Sabbath demonstrates His authority and be motivated to submit to what He says about God, salvation and the Bible as we reflect together on the way He silenced the most respected religious leaders and teachers in Israel.

Connecting the Dots: This may help some of you see more clearly how this message works.

1. What this text is about:
 - a. Luke 14:1-6 is about the unparalleled authority of Jesus.
 - b. It demonstrates why you should trust Him when He speaks for God and not the religious leaders of the time.
2. What this message is about:
 - a. I want you to be amazed by the greatness of Jesus.
 - b. And I want you to be confident about how Jesus interprets the Bible and what He reveals about God.
3. How did this message do that:
 - a. I decided to take a little more of an inductive approach to showing you that.
 - b. Why?
 - i. I think it is easy to miss the significance of this story because we feel like we've seen what happens here before.
 - ii. I believe this is a very exciting story, and I wanted to structure the message in such a way that you would slowly but surely see why what happens is so significant and encouraging.
 - iii. This story is supposed to help you leave more certain that you can trust Jesus and I felt like slowly showing you why you should do that would be more effective in accomplishing that purpose than simply telling you that you needed to do that.
4. How did I seek to do that exactly:
 - a. In the introduction I tried to get you thinking about why Luke would tell this story.

- i. I knew that you would be tempted to overlook this story because it seems repetitious.
 - 1. I wanted to help you see that's actually a motivation to think more carefully about it.
 - a. If all there was to this story was knowing that Jesus could heal on the Sabbath and that the Pharisees didn't like it, Luke doesn't need to include it. He's already told us that.
 - b. So to understand this story, we need to know why it is here.
 - 2. Why did I do it this way? I was trying to get your mind engaged and curious. You may look at a story like this and just rush by it. But I wanted to help you see the need to look again and figure out the purpose of this story.
- ii. To help you do that, I reminded you that Luke had told us his overarching purpose. He says at the beginning he is writing to help us be certain.
 - 1. That shapes the way we look at this story.
 - 2. It causes us to ask how this story helps us be more certain about Jesus?
- iii. To see how this helps us be more certain about Jesus, we had to think about why we might not be certain about Jesus. We did that by thinking about the context for this story.
 - 1. We began by looking at the immediate context.
 - a. In Luke 13:31-35 Jesus says:
 - i. That he is a prophet.
 - ii. That he is going to be killed in Jerusalem
 - iii. That being killed in Jerusalem demonstrates he really is a prophet
 - iv. And that generation of Israel will be judged and Israel won't experience the blessings of the promised kingdom until the second coming.
 - v. I then pointed out that is a big statement to make.
 - 1. Basically Jesus is saying He is right and all of Israel is wrong, and so wrong, they are bringing judgment on themselves.
 - 2. That by itself should get us ready to look at Luke 14. How can he say that? How can we trust that He's right?
 - 2. Then we thought about the larger context.
 - a. We saw that in chapters 4-8, he introduces us to the ministry of Jesus and begins by presenting Jesus as a teacher.
 - i. He then shows us Jesus claimed to be a prophet.
 - ii. And he explains that Jesus' purpose was to preach the message of the Old Testament to Israel.
 - b. Then in chapters 9-19, Luke talks about discipleship and tells us that the key to being a disciple of Jesus is submitting to His Word. He shows us positive and negative examples of what it means to do that.
 - i. In chapter 11, he begins focusing on the negative examples. In other words, the wrong responses to Jesus.
 - 1. Specifically we see that Israel is going to be condemned on judgment day by pagans for not listening to Jesus.
 - 2. He then reveals one of the primary reasons they didn't listen to Jesus was because the

religious leadership had taken away the key of knowledge.

3. From this point, he starts focusing on the danger of the Pharisees and lawyers.
 - a. He warns the disciples about following in their footsteps.
 - b. He tells the crowds to make a decision before it is too late.
 - c. And he reveals the religious leaders don't have the authority to decide who gets to be in the kingdom and who doesn't, but He does.
- iv. Why did we take time to see all that?
 1. It wasn't just for review.
 2. It's because knowing the context should put you in a position where you are ready to see what Luke is going to show us about Jesus in Luke 14.
 3. We have seen that one big reason Israel rejected Jesus was because of the influence of the religious leaders in their day.
 4. In the previous passages we have seen Jesus standing in opposition to the entire religious leadership of Israel at the time and telling them that they don't speak for God, He does and that they are an obstacle to people being able to enter the kingdom and that listening to them is going to lead that generation of Israel to reject the prophet God sent to reveal Himself to them and to be judged as a result.
 5. In other words, Jesus is looking at the most serious, the most respected group of religious leaders and teachers in Israel and saying they were all wrong, and that they needed to repent and submit to who He was and what He was saying.
 6. That's big!
 7. What question do you think you should be asking when you see that?
 - a. Now, I didn't just tell you the question right away, I tried to get you to ask it.
 - i. I did it like that because I am trying to get you to think.
 - ii. I wanted to help you feel the need for Luke to show us what He is about to show us in chapter 14.
 - iii. I didn't want to just tell you Jesus has more authority than the Pharisees, I wanted to help you appreciate why you need to know that. In other words, I first wanted to help create or identify the itch that this story would scratch.
 - b. But, in case, I didn't accomplish that - here's the question:
 - i. If here is this group that everybody respects teaching the Bible and here is Jesus saying they are wrong and that He speaks for God and He's the One who has the authority to explain what God wants and what God is doing, we need to know: Did he prove it?
 - ii. That's why this story is here.
- b. After showing you that the reason this story is here is to help us be confident about the authority of Jesus even though he was rejected by the religious leadership, and trying to help you feel the need for Luke to prove that to us, we looked at the details of the story to demonstrate how it does that.

- i. We saw in this story that Luke shows us how clearly Jesus demonstrated that he really was trustworthy and the one who should be listened to rather than the Pharisees and lawyers.
 1. First of all we noted how the religious leaders were trying to humiliate Jesus.
 - a. They invited Jesus over and they invited someone who was sick over because they wanted to prove that Jesus didn't understand the basics of God's law and shouldn't be listened to.
 2. But Jesus knows what they are doing and turns the tables on them. He asks them to explain the law to him.
 - a. But they can't. They are silent.
 3. So Jesus takes over, heals the man, sends him away and asks the lawyers another question.
 - a. But once again Luke tells us they could not respond. They did not have the strength to respond.
 4. And, so here they have set up this whole situation to show that Jesus did not know the law, and Jesus comes onto their home turf, and proves they are the ones who did not understand the a,b,c's of God's law and are unfaithful guides who could not be trusted because in reality they were hypocrites.
5. Why does it matter:
 - a. After looking at the question the story answers and how it answers it, we concluded by talking about why it matters:
 - i. This story gives an illustration of a very important biblical principle: Jesus' supreme authority! We should go away amazed by Jesus.
 - ii. We see the necessity of listening to Jesus. You want to understand the Bible, what God is doing, you need to listen to Jesus. Jesus is He is the one who gets to interpret the Bible, God and salvation for us.
 - iii. While we may not have Pharisees in our lives, we do have many different people out there telling us this or that about God and about life. They may seem important and impressive. But if they don't submit to Jesus, they ultimately can't be trusted on issues of eternal importance. Jesus is the final standard of what is true, what the Bible teaches, and who God is. He knows God and the Bible best. You can trust Him. You must trust Him.

Application Questions: We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital you respond.

- What should you believe about Jesus as a result of this message?
- How can you take what you learned in this message and use it to worship and pray to Jesus?
- Who has the most authority in your life to tell you how to think and what to do? Practically, who do you actually look to as the final and supreme authority in your life?
- What would it look like if you believed Jesus really did have the kind of authority this passage demonstrates He has?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.