

TABLE TALK

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Luke 14:1-14

1. True followers of the Lord Jesus Christ will often find themselves in conflict with their culture, even as Jesus did.
2. It is instructive to note how often Jesus challenged the norms of the culture into which He was born.
3. We can learn a great deal by observing not only what Jesus said, but also by paying attention to what He did and did not do.
4. In this narrative we find that Jesus:
 1. Accepted an invitation to eat at the house of a leader of the Pharisees on the Sabbath.
 2. Was being closely watch by the other people present.
 3. Found Himself in the presence of a man who was suffering from dropsy (edema, an affliction that led to a person retaining excess fluid in body cavities, on the surface of their body, or in their limbs.)

NOTE: This is what we would call a setup, in that this unfortunate man was being used as a test case to see whether Jesus would heal on the Sabbath or not.
5. Jesus did what Paul told us to do. Colossians 4:5-6
Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6
Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
6. Notice that Jesus demonstrated how to live out Paul's admonition.
 - a. He conducted Himself wisely.
 - b. He made the most of the opportunity.
 - c. His speech was with grace, as though seasoned with salt.

I. Jesus took control of the situation.

- A. Jesus was filled with, and led by, the Holy Spirit.
- B. His sole purpose in life was to faithfully represent God the Father in all that He did and said.
- C. Jesus answered the duplicity of the scribes and Pharisees by asking a question that He knew they could not, or would not, be willing to answer.

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?"
- D. He then answered the question Himself by healing the man and sending him away.
- E. He then asked, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?"
- F. By His words and actions Jesus effectively silenced His critics.
- G. Like Jesus, we are not to let others dictate or determine what we say and do.

II. Jesus determined the content of the conversation.

- A. He asked the questions and guided the conversation.
- B. Jesus was not there to simply engage in polite and meaningless conversation.
- C. God's agenda was His agenda. John 8:28-30

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

- D. Notice that Jesus:
 - 1. Did not act on His own initiative.
 - 2. He spoke what God wanted Him to speak.
 - 3. He relied on God's presence and power.
 - 4. He always did the things that are pleasing to God.

NOTE: We are to do the same thing. 1 John 3:21-22

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

III. Jesus confronted the issues at hand.

- A. He confronted the issue of a misguided, misdirected, and legalistic application of the Law.
 - 1. The two questions He asked highlighted the inconsistencies in how the Jews applied the Law.
 - 2. We need to remember that the essence of the Law was love.
 - 3. Paul pointed out the correlation between the Law and love in Romans 13:8-10.

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- B. He confronted the issue of pride.
 - 1. Jesus noticed how the invited guests were picking out the places of honor at the table.
NOTE: We need to remember that God takes notice of what we do, and why we do it, related to the everyday aspects of our lives.
 - 2. He pointed out that what they were doing was in violation of the principle set forth in Proverbs 25:6-7.

Do not claim honor in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; 7 for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen."

- 3. Jesus then stated, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11

C. He confronted the issue of motivation.

1. Jesus knew why the leader of the Pharisees extended hospitality to others.
2. He did it for selfish reasons.
3. Jesus suggested that His host extend hospitality to those who really needed it and leave it up to God to reward him in eternity.

APPLICATION

1. Are our actions and reactions guided by an earnest desire to faithfully represent God in every situation and circumstance of life?
2. Are we confused about what God really cares about?
3. Are we motivated by ulterior motives like pride and selfish desire?
4. Is our concept of what constitutes Christian behavior determined by our relationship with God and His Word, or are we guided by unbiblical traditions or the expectations of others?