

Lesson January 6: More Parables

1. Read **Luke 13:22-35** and answer:

- What question was Jesus asked as he was teaching?
- What does this tell us about his message (compared to what is taught today)?
- What advice did Jesus give those who would be saved?
- When will the opportunity to enter end?
- When will this be?
- What did Jesus mean by 'the first will be last, and the last first'?
- What warning was given to Jesus about Herod?
- How did he answer?
- What things did Jesus say about Jerusalem?

Notes: How was Jesus message different from most 'modern preaching'? Do Modern teachers require a change in lifestyle or is their teaching to 'accept people as they are'? The door "be shut" permanently for each of us at our death. Who among the Jews would have considered themselves to be "first" in God's eyes and who would they have considered to be 'last'? (Remember the parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector). The Jews called the temple their 'house'.

2. Read **Luke 14:1-24** and answer:

- Why would it have been unusual for the man with dropsy to be in the home of a Pharisee?
- What was it about the healing of the man with dropsy that would have upset the Pharisees and teachers of the law?
- What illustration did Jesus use that left them speechless?
- What did Jesus suggest that they do when invited to a wedding feast?
- What was the point of this? (What were they seeking?)
- What suggestion did Jesus make to the host of the feast?
- In the parable of the great feast, what excuses were made by the 'invited' guests?
- Why were these not 'legitimate' excuses?
- What did the master order to be done?
- Why?

Notes: The 'leaders of the Jews' considered a person who was diseased to be unclean and their disease to have caused by 'some sin'. Would have at best separated themselves from the person, not have him in the same room. How did Jesus suggest that they get the 'honor' they craved? They would normally assume they were the 'most important'. Why were the excuses made for not attending the great feast not legitimate? (The practice was to send out invitations far in advance and then to simply send a servant when everything was ready and about to begin.)

3. Read **Luke 14:25-35** and answer:

- Who or what did Jesus say that one must 'hate' (love less than they love Jesus), if they are to be his disciple?
- What two examples of 'counting the cost' does Jesus give?
- What was Jesus' point?
- What point is made about 'salt'? (what is Jesus referring to as 'salt')

Notes: What is the result of not 'counting the cost' of being a disciple of Jesus- see the results of Jesus' two examples! (What effect will it have on what others think of you?) Why did Jesus call his followers 'salt'? What is salt used for and what does it say about Christians? (Salt has to be applied to something before it can have any effect. It does no good left in the bag or shaker.)

4. Read **Luke 15:1-32** and answer:

- What complaint by the Pharisees and teachers of the law prompted these parables Jesus told?
- What is the main lesson of the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin?
- What was different about how the sheep and the coin were lost?
- What did Jesus say causes joy in heaven?
- In the parable of the prodigal son, what had to happen to 'change the son's attitude'?
- What was the returning son's attitude?
- What was the Father's reaction to his return?
- What is the main lesson of the parable of the prodigal son?
- Who was Jesus referring to in the character of the 'older brother'?

Notes: Note the different ways someone can be 'lost'? (Distracted and wander off, lost accidentally, or knowing full well that what you are doing is wrong.) What has to happen to cause a person to truly repent? (Each person has their own point of 'hitting bottom'.) What showed the 'prodigal's' repentance? (What position was he willing to take?)

5. Read **Luke 16:1-18** and answer:

- In the parable of the unjust steward, what did the steward do to prepare for the future when told he would no longer be a steward?
- What was Jesus teaching in this parable?
- What is the relationship between the use of worldly wealth and the use of true spiritual riches?
- What did Jesus mean by 'no one man can serve two masters'?
- How did the Pharisees react to this teaching? Why?

Notes: Why did the master commend the unjust steward? What does Jesus tell His followers to learn from this? Note: Jesus is not condoning cheating or lying, he is making the point that the people of this world know how to use what they have control of to

'make friends' for themselves – why do Christians not use what we have control of to 'make friends' with God? Consider verse 18 in the light of verses 16-17. It is directed at the Pharisees who made up their own rules rather than following God's laws and who were forcing (trying to make their own way) into God's kingdom by their own way instead of following God's teaching.

6. Read **Luke 16:19-31** and answer:

- What contrast is drawn between the rich man and Lazarus?
- How did this change after death?
- What request did the rich man make of Abraham? (What does this tell us about his attitude toward Lazarus?)
- Why was his request not granted?
- What did the rich man then ask Abraham to do?
- What answer was given?

Notes: The Rich man was not in 'hell' and Lazarus was not in 'heaven'. They were both in Hades (the place of waiting), awaiting the final judgment day. Who else was there with Lazarus? See Hebrews 11:30-40 (All the Old Testament faithful are there waiting also). Note that there was NO changing after death – no 'purgatory' (a great fixed gulf between the two that no one can cross). What was significant about the answer given to the rich man about his brothers hearing Moses and the prophets? (What was the reaction of the majority when Jesus rose from the dead? – Remember there were around 2 million people in Jerusalem for Pentecost – yet how many believed the gospel the apostles taught?)

7. Read **Luke 17:1-10** and answer:

- What does Jesus say about those that cause others to sin?
- What attitude of forgiveness should a Christian have?
- What was the reaction of the disciples to Jesus teaching?
- What did Jesus say they were lacking or needed to do?
- What was the point of Jesus' parable of the servant in the field (in light of the teaching about forgiveness)?

Notes: The common teaching of the day was that a 'religious' Jew should forgive their brother who sinned against them three times in a lifetime. How does that compare to Jesus' teaching? Is forgiveness some great work that we should expect to be honored for? See Matt 6:15.