

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Whoever humbles himself...” Luke 14

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 14: 1-13

### 1. Lord Jesus violated the Sabbath rule multiple times

#### A. *Instances of the Lord’s violation of the Sabbath rule*

- 1) Luke 6: His disciples ate grain from a grain field.
- 2) Luke 6: He cured a man with a withered hand.
- 3) Luke 13: He cured a bent-up woman of 18 years.
- 4) Luke 14: He cured a man with dropsy (edema).
- 5) John 5: He cured an invalid man by the pool of Bethesda.
- 6) John 9: He gave sight to a blind man.

#### B. *Sabbath rule and Sabbath principle*

- 1) God gave the Sabbath commandment as one of the ten commandments to teach the people of Israel to set aside a day in a week to worship Him, to be taught by His priests on the laws and to give them rest from their week’s hard labor. We are often bound by the demands of this life – of having to work to provide for oneself and his/her family. And unless we are told in strong terms to stop work and to sit down and relax, some people simply do not know what it means to rest from work and to rest. Therefore, the rule of Sabbath was for the temporal as well as spiritual benefits to the people of Israel. But the Jewish religious leaders of the first century forgot the principle and were so insistent on the “rule” only so that they began to hate Lord Jesus for its violation.
- 2) Often when we read the Scriptures, we are so taken up with the rules of what we must do and must not do without thinking about God’s principles behind these rules, which are meant to change because of the evolving circumstances of the times. Do God’s principles change over time? No, they do not. But the “how-to” may change as long as the principle is honored and kept zealously. In these cases of the Messiah violating the ‘rules of Sabbath,’ perhaps intentionally, show this very important lesson. Lord God is the ‘LORD of the Sabbath.’ He is to be honored and worshipped on Sabbath days in the actions, events and things we do on Sabbath days. Must we keep Sabbath on Saturdays because the Jews do? Christian Sabbath has changed from Saturday to Sunday in the first century and legally instituted by the Roman Emperor Constantine in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Let us keep our Sundays holy, honoring God, resting from our work and engaging in spiritually uplifting and nourishing activities.

### 2. Christian humility

- A. Lord Jesus taught the people who were at a Pharisee’s house an important lesson – to take a humble, lowly place in public. He pronounced an important principle:

*Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. [Luke 14: 11]*

When I was growing up, there was a significant teaching from some authors who taught that one must promote the importance of self because others will not recognize your merits unless you demonstrate who you are and how capable you are. This teaching of ‘Self Promotion’ caught on and has become one of the movements in the world.

But, Lord Jesus is teaching just the opposite – One who promotes himself and makes herself big will be humbled; and one who humbles himself will be honored! Just exactly the opposite! What a conflict between a movement of the world and a teaching of Lord Jesus! Friends, let us not be fooled by this world’s foolish wisdom, but let us follow the Lord’s teaching and benefit from His rewards. What are the rewards of this teaching of Christian humility?

**B. Rewards of Christian humility:** By practicing humility in their personal and public lives Christians will receive the following rewards and benefits.

**1) You will be raised to a higher status during this life:** Lord Jesus gave the teaching of humility as a word of wisdom for earthly life. A proverb speaks the same truth.

*A man’s pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor. [Prov. 29: 23]*

**2) You will receive reward from the Lord upon resurrection:** The faithful saints of God will be raised to heaven at the rapture event and put on the resurrection body. Then, there will be a ‘Awards Ceremony’ when they will be rewarded for their good works, including the rewards of humility during this life [v. 14: 13]:

*And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. [Rev. 22: 12]*

**C. Examples of humility**

**1) Abraham** showed servitude as a humble child of God, but God called him ‘my friend.’ Thus, he was honored during this life and became the father of a great people of Israel. He also became the father of all Christians because we have been borne again into God’s Family. [Abraham’s example of servitude: Genesis 18: 1-8]

**2) John the Baptist** referred himself as “unworthy to untie the shoe strings” of Lord Jesus, yet Lord Jesus appraised him as the greatest prophet:

*For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. [Luke 7: 28]*

**3) Lord Jesus**, being the Son of God, forsook His honor and glory in heaven and came down as a mere man on earth to show the humanity the way of salvation and to become the sacrificial lamb to fulfill the salvation plan.

*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. [Phil. 2: 8]*

**D.** As we look unto the examples of our Lord Jesus and of faithful forefathers of faith, let us humble ourselves and take a place of serving and humbly following the instructions of our Savior so that we may receive His honor and reward prepared in heaven, although we may not receive any rewards in this life.

**Topics of Discussion:**

1. Let us discuss how vastly different the teachings of Jesus are from the so-called “wisdom of the world.”
2. Have you ever felt rejected or despised when you took a place of humility? What encouragement did you receive from the Lord through such an experience?