

13:30 The shocking Judgement of the Saviour of the World.

- There are those **NOW LAST – who will be FIRST** and those **NOW FIRST who will be LAST**.

- a) Those who are **FIRST NOW... at the time of Christ**
 - i) The Sanhedrin
 - ii) The Rich and the powerful

- b) Those **NOW LAST... at time of Christ**
 - (i) Widows and orphans
 - (ii) Sinners in general
 - (iii) The poor and the powerless
 - (iv) Gentiles

- c) Those now **FIRST in 21st Century**
 - (i) Church Leaders
 - (ii) Christians in general
 - (iii) The Rich and the Powerful

- d) Those who are **LAST in 21st century**
 - (i) Sinners... atheists... false religions
 - (ii) The Poor and the powerless
 - (iii) Non-Christians

(NB) Jesus declared that there would be a **great REVERSAL** because *“he pulls the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly”*: Lk 1:52 cf. Isaiah 43:19; Isaiah 60:22; **Jer. 29:11**; Ps 145:18

- 3½ centuries later God pulled the mighty Roman Empire down and raised up the lowly church...

1. Jesus will be Rejected 13:31-35 cf. Lk 2:34

13:31 The Pharisees – no friends of Jesus! – warn him about Herod Antipas’s sly trick to kill Jesus, after he had killed John the Baptist.

- His father, Herod the Great, tried to kill Jesus in infancy: cf. Mt chap 2
- The Pharisees want Jesus to **FLEE** from death!
- In Lk 23:35-38 the leaders will **JEER** him for not saving himself from **The Cross!**

13:32 - **With regard to Herod** – and all others – Jesus will show that no human being can stop him from achieving his goal of saving the world **THROUGH** the Cross.

- He will continue his **Mission** as planned
- He will achieve his goal on the 3rd day (v 33)
- cf. Jn 7:30; 8:20: his *“Hour had not yet come”*

13:33 Jesus is a Prophet – **THE** Prophet

- like other prophets he, too, will die in Jerusalem!

13:34-35 Jesus’ grief over Jerusalem: Cf. Lk 19:41-44

- she has rejected God's Prophets **and** God's Word
- she also rejected **THE WORD INCARNATE**: Cf. Jn 1:14

The Hen and her brood: Jesus compared his ministry to the gentleness of a hen caring for **HER** chicks...

- the image calls forth **The Great Eagle** – who represents God Himself: Ex 19:4 *“You, yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself”*

Yet Jerusalem REFUSED! (te) closed the door on God's Plan for her: **“SO BE IT!”** It's their own decision. Jesus accepts their use of their **FREE WILL**... but there are consequences...

13:35 “Your **House** will be left **empty** to you”!!

- since they reject the Messiah... no salvation!
- “ “ “ God's Word and God's Will... they will be empty of Grace...

Your House : Jerusalem... will be empty, destroyed
 : Temple... “ “ “
 : Nation... will be empty of its people

- What a tragedy!

Jesus promised them: *“you will NOT SEE ME until the time comes when you say:*
BARUCH HABA BA SHEM ADONAI!

- until they greet him as **THE MESSIAH**

Luke Chapter 14

Introduction:

Stage 3 of the Going back to Glory lies between two markers: a) 13:22 and b) 17:10
 ... Who will be saved? Who will be in the K.O.G.?

- The answer **should be** ‘both Jews and Gentiles’
 - a) 13:29: shows that Gentiles from North/South/East/West will be there at **THE FEAST** of the K.O.G. = Messianic Banquet.
 - b) In 14:15-24 Jesus speaks about those present at Messianic Banquet.
 - c) The joy of Redemption and home-coming to the Father is expressed in the **Parable of Prodigal Son** in chap 15. His home-coming is celebrated with a banquet!
 - d) 16:19-31: Luke gives another major parable about the **Rich Man and Lazarus**
 - the story contrasts the **EARTHLY** banquets of Rich Men with **the eternal banquet of the Poor Man**
 - Throughout Stage 3 all the joy is with those who arrive at Messianic Banquet **But**, this is contrasted with the sorrow of those who do **NOT**...
 - People miss out on the Messianic Banquet for different reasons
 - Two groups miss it unintentionally – with dreadful frustration
 - The other two groups choose their position deliberately
 - Their deliberate rejection of salvation is dreadful...

- As Jesus proceeds on **his** journey through the Cross to Glory, he is compelled to remind his followers of the two possible destinations awaiting **them**:
 - Inside the Father's House – and Arms – there is joy and life
 - Outside there is **ETERNAL** frustration

So, Jesus had to warn us to **CHOOSE LIFE** – eternal life!

Luke 14:1-6: In 13:25-26 people knocked on the closed door saying *“Lord, open to us”* – but he *“doesn't know where they come from”!* *“we once ate and drank in your company”!*

- but their plea didn't represent **genuine** repentance Cf. John the Baptist: Lk 3:7-9

Here, in this incident the Pharisees and Lawyers were at a meal with Jesus – but it's no joy or messianic banquet! Instead, it is confrontation!

14:1 Jesus was invited by a **LEADING** Pharisee – i.e. a member of the Sanhedrin... **and** on a **Sabbath** day *“AND they watched him closely”* Remember 6:6-11!

- It is clear that these people have **NO INTENTION** of entering the K.O.G.. They are outside by personal choice.

14:2 *“There, in front of him (Jesus) was a man with dropsy.”*

Dropsy was the name given to a condition of general swelling of the body due to fluid retention. Today, it is called **Oedema**.

'Dropsy' comes from a Greek word meaning “by drops” which indicates **water** present.

- It is often associated with heart-failure.

The sick man is a 'plant' used by the Pharisees to trap Jesus to **work** on a Sabbath day...

- But he shouldn't have given a banquet on the Sabbath!

(NB) We have been at meals in Pharisee houses before this in 7:36-50 and 11:37-44 – and **these** meals turned out to be confrontations also!

What is wrong?

The old wine meets the **NEW WINE**

The old worn-out cloak meets the **NEW GARMENT**

The old Law of Moses meets the **NEW LAW** of Jesus

cf Mt 9:16-17 Mk 2:21-22 Lk 5:36-39

In Luke 6:11 the Scribes and Pharisees decided to **kill Jesus**

→ so, the man with dropsy is **NOT** a guest

- just a piece of drama to be used **AGAINST** Jesus
- At these various banquets the Scribes and Pharisees pressed Jesus on points of the Law – hoping to be able to accuse him publicly: Lk 11:53-54
- They **knew** what Jesus believed and taught because they themselves, or their representatives, were always at his gatherings.
- Since we have just been told in 13:34-35 that Jesus will die in Jerusalem – the fact that *“they watched him closely”* sounds an ominous note...

14:4 *“Is it **right** to cure a man on the Sabbath or not?”*

- **BUT** they didn't reply!!
- they waited for the trap to spring!

14:5 **SO**, Jesus healed the man in front of their faces! And **he** sent him away...

It was not the sick man who would brand Jesus a Sabbath-breaker...
That would come from the silent enemies around the table!

Then Jesus asked **them** a second question – which exposed their own breaking of Sabbath rules!

- They would not hesitate to save a son or a valuable ox if they fell into a well on the Sabbath!
- Here Jesus saved a Son of Abraham on the Sabbath.

- Of course, it would be right to save the child or ox!
- But in this Jesus exposed their hypocrisy

14:6 *“To **this**, they could find no answer”*

- yet that didn't mean they would repent or acknowledge their breaking of the Sabbath!
- we can see that the stage **is already set** for Jesus' journey to Jerusalem to end on a Cross”

Why?

Those who reject Christ **then** or throughout history do **not** remain neutral: **they persecute believers!**

- They would find out – far too late – that Jesus was the **Master** of the House! (13:25)

On the question of drowning: we have the water-retention of the sick man who needed urgent help – compared to a drowning son or animal who also needed urgent help!

Sabbath Prohibitions: they were forbidden to **work** on Sabbath: Jer. 17:21-22

- healing was considered work
- but Jesus often healed by His Word alone and this could not be seen as **HUMAN** labour – It was Divine Labour and God is Lord of the Sabbath!

Jesus exposed **the motivation** of the Pharisees in keeping the Sabbath.

They said that keeping the Law piled up **MERIT** which gave you a big place in Heaven...

- Hence they multiplied rules for Sabbath... yet human necessities had to be dealt with!
- It wasn't **God** who multiplied the rules of the Sabbath which burdened everyone... So, there was **NO MERIT** in them! Cf. Mt 12:1-14

... It was only on Calvary that Humanity discovered just **how far** Jesus would go to pull **all** of God's children from the mire of sin, sickness, death and hell: Ps 113: 7-9 Ps 107:41

(NB) These Scribes and Pharisees are the ones who will be left out **when “the door is shut”** to the Day of Salvation for Israel. They are the very people who will say **“you ate in our homes!”**

The Messianic Banquet

The Lord's invitation declined! 14:7 → 15:7

- a) Message to Guests: 14:7-11
- b) Message to his Host at Table: 14:12-14
- c) Invitation to Messianic Banquet: 14:15-24

a) To Guests 14:7-11

Jesus noticed that some people accept invitations as an opportunity to show their own importance and to receive honour and distinction from their fellowmen.

They, therefore can't **enjoy** the company and the food since their concentration is on their **own** importance which must be recognised and acknowledged by others...

A message to disciples of all eras is humility and lowliness of heart – their importance is recognised by God who invites them to **his** Banquet.

14:11 *“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled; one who humbles himself will be exalted”*: 1:51-53

b) The Host at table: 14:12-14

- The K.O.G. is **very** different from **this** meal!
- The wrong guests are present! Jesus will invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind to **His** Banquet **AFTER** he has healed and redeemed them.
- They will have no difficulty taking the **lowest** places and will be surprised when God rewards them!!
- Everything will come from God's Loving Mercy since none of the guests can pay Him for His Gifts: Cf. Lk 6:32-34

c) The Messianic Banquet: 14:15-24

14:15 An enthusiastic guest responded to Jesus: *“Blessed the one who will be at the feast in the K.O.G.”*

14:16 Jesus responded with the **Parable about Invitations to this Banquet**:

a) A **large** number invited... Israel, throughout Old Testament

14:17 b) but when the time for Salvation came – through John the Baptist,

14:18 they *“all alike started to make excuses”* not to come

14:18-20 c) Their excuses came from **daily living**!

“I bought a piece of land...”

“I've just got married...”

“I've bought 5 yoke of oxen...”

They were earth-bound... had lost the Vision of God regarding His Kingdom to which they were **HEIRS!** Hos 4:4

14:21-23 Since the Jews have rejected the Day of Salvation the invitation goes out to the Gentile Nations... *“the poor, the cripples, the blind and the lame”*, **SPIRITUALLY**

14:23 Nobody stays outside the K.O.G. **for lack of an invitation!**

14:24 But those who reject the invitation, do so at their own peril...