Rhema Christian Center

Bible Study - Tuesday 11/3/2026 &
Wisdom Wednesday 11/4/2026
Presenter- Willie Bryant

Luke 14:1-35 NLT

The events and teaching unfold in four distinct scenes:

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath vs 1-6

Jesus Teaches about Humility 7-14

Parable of the Great Feast 15-24

The Cost of Being a Disciple 25-34

Luke 14:1-6 Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

1 "One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely.

Teachers of the law (nomodidashaoi) were also called "scribes"

Lawyers (nomikoi) experts in the law.

John Trapp wrote" they watched as intently as a dog doth for a bone".

2 There was a man there whose arms and legs were swollen (dropsy).

In this context swollen or dropsy (Greek hydropikus) medically known as edema, it is not a disease-it is a symptom of more serious condition**.**

3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in religious law, "Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the Sabbath day, or not?"

4 When they refused to answer, Jesus touched the sick man and healed him and sent him away.

5 Then he turned to them and said, “Which of you doesn’t work on the Sabbath? If your son or your cow falls into a pit, don’t you rush to get him out?”

6 Again they could not answer.

In vss 5-6 Jesus exposes the hypocrisy of the pharisees and the experts of the law.

When Jesus healed the man with dropsy, the leaders could not reply because Jesus actions demonstrated to the people that showing love, compassion and care for those who need help is more important than any law.

Jesus “shows that God’s law was never intended to prevent acts of mercy. Healing someone in need honors God’s heart, even on the sabbath.”

The sabbath was meant to bless people. It was given to as a gift for rest and worship. (Ex 31)

Take aways for us today:

Show mercy whenever you have the opportunity, helping others shouldn’t be delayed because of rigid rules or convenience,

Examine your motives. Rules have a place, but they should never become more important than caring for people

Follow God’s heart, not just outward. God desires obedience that flows from love, justice, and compassion.

Jesus Teaches about Humility 7-14

7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice:

8 “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited?

Honor mean respect, good reputation, recognition, integrity

Seat of honor(protoklisian) this term means “the first chair at the meal.

9 The host will come in and say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!

10 "Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests.

11 **For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted**."

In this verse whoever exalts himself will be humbled, "this means that when a person thinks too highly of themselves, seek attention, wants recognition, or believes they are better than others, God can bring them down. "We should never allow pride to make us feel superior to anyone else.

Whoever humbles himself will be exalted, this means that when we walk in humility, treat others with love. Give God the glory, He sees our hearts.

God is teaching us through this verse:

Don't seek to be greater than others. Don't let pride control your heart. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their position. Let God be the one who elevates you.

12 Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward.

13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

In those verses Jesus teaches on humility. Here are some practical ways we can apply humility:

- One commentator noted: “we can humble ourselves by choosing everyday acts of service, listening before you speak, and letting go of the need for self-promotion.
- In social and family gatherings: Serve in ways where you do not receive a lot of attention, help clean up.
- Examine your generosity: Check your motives when you give time, money, or kindness, ask yourself if you are only helping people who can benefit or elevate your own social standing.

Parable of the Great Feast 15-24

15 Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

16 Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.

17 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’

18 But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’

19 Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’

20 Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.

21 “The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’

22 After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’

23 So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.

24 For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’”

In these parables, the **host** represents **God**, the **banquet** symbolizes **the Kingdom of God and the joy of salvation**, and the **invitation** is **God's call to enter into a relationship with Him**.

In summary, Jesus introduces the banquet a parable that set up a message that God gracefully invites people into His kingdom.

The Great Banquet serves as a powerful metaphor for the Kingdom of God, illustrating themes of invitation, rejection, acceptance, and the joyous fulfillment of God's promises to His people. (The invited guests let everyday priorities crowd out the invitation.)

Questions we should ask ourselves:

What Am I prioritizing over my relationship with God?

Am I open to God's invitation, or am I making excuses.

Do I welcome others the way God does, including those who may be overlooked or excluded.

The Cost of Being a Disciple 25-35

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them,

26 "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

28 "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.

30 They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' "

31 Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?

32 And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.

33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

34 "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again?

35 Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"

Note: In context verses 25– 35 as Jesus continues on his way to Jerusalem and the cross, He taught the crowd the cost of being His disciple.

To be His disciple, there are **six** key words in these passages to consider:

Disciple: Jesus "defines a true disciple as someone who actively abides in His word, obeys His teaching and demonstrate self-denying love." (Desiring Word)

Hate: the word "hate" everyone, is a Hebrew and Greek idiom, not literal emotional hatred or malice.

The word "hate" here expresses the idiom of loving someone less by comparison.

Jesus is saying, "you must love me more than everyone else, even if following Me puts you at odds with your family; you must be willing to remain faithful to me. This is not contradicting His command to love others. **Exodus 20:12** "tells us to honor our father and mother. **Matthew 26:29** tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

So, to follow Jesus is to let go of the things that demand our allegiance and to step into a new kind of life.

Carry your own cross: in Jesus' day the cross represented death, to carry the cross meant one was about to die, and that one would face ridicule and disgrace along the way.

In vs 27 Jesus said if **"you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple**."

Jesus is saying, take up your cross and follow me is a call to Humber, and self-sacrifice, meaning dying to self is an absolute surrender to God.

A disciple must be ready to face hardship, give up selfishly desires, and endure suffering or rejection for doing what is right.

Question: are you willing to take up your cross if faced with a choice follow Jesus or the comforts of this life? Will you choose Jesus?

Count the cost: to putting Jesus first in your life, think carefully about the serious sacrifices, total commitments, putting and life changes required to follow Him before making the decision.

Salt: In **"**ancient near East salt was commonly gathered from places like the Dead Sea. It was a mixture of salt and other minerals, if the moisture dissolved and chloride washed away the actual sodium no longer tasted salty, it was essentially useless.

In context vs 34, salt is a metaphor for discipleship. So "salt "represents a disciples' usefulness, if a disciple abandons wholehearted devotion to Christ, they become like salt that no longer fulfill its purpose.

Jesus also speaks of salt in: **Matthew 5:13** "you are salt of the earth.

Mark 9:50 "salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltness**……**

One commentator noted: "the metaphor of salt illustrates that believers must maintain their faith's integrity; otherwise, they become spiritually useless,"

Finally, 35b Jesus is saying anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.

Jesus is "talking about spiritual hearing." Jesus is calling people to pay attention and take His teaching seriously, put what you heard into practice. Spiritual understanding is shown by how you live. Example if God corrects you, you become willing to change.

Something to think about, ask yourself, am I hearing God, or only hearing what I want to hear? Is there something God has shown me that I have been ignoring

The main takeaways in vss 28-35 are:

- Count the cost: Following Jesus isn't based on emotion or enthusiasm. It may involve sacrifice, hardship, or giving up things that compete with devotion to Him.
- Commit fully: Jesus encourages wholehearted commitment rather than starting with intentions and abandoning the journey when it becomes difficult.
- Be realistic about discipleship: Just as a wise builder plan before building, a wise disciple understands that faith is a lifelong commitment.

Jesus calls people to deliberate, wholehearted discipleship not an impulsive half-hearted commitment.

I like to end this chapter with George Whitefield Quotes.

"If you are going to walk with Jesus Christ you are going to be opposed." Study to know him more and more, for more you know Him the more you will love Him."

"The way to heaven is through the blood of Christ". "Salvation is not a reward or the righteous, it is a gift for the guilty. "Let us not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation." "Come poor, lost, undone sinner, come just as you are to Christ.

God sent His gospel to unite, inspire us, first to be saved then to be free.

Sources used: NKJV, NLT, The Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible, Logos Bible Study, Warren Wiersbe Commentary, The MAXWELL Leadership Bible, Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary, Google/ChatGPT