

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sunday School Notes:
Luke 14 & 15

Luke 14:1-6

Jesus engages the 'self-righteous' in a discussion regarding the Sabbath. Once again, the self-righteous had created a Sabbath law where there should have been Sabbath grace. We need to remember this one fact, Jesus is the Sabbath of God become flesh. We remember the words of Jesus, "Come to me all you who are weary, and I will give you (Sabbath) rest." This truth now permeates our Sunday worship and our observation of the Sabbath. We find out rest in Jesus.

Luke 14:7-11

Jesus tells a parable of a wedding feast. Through the parable Jesus teaches that we should not seek the seats of honor, or else we might be asked to move down to a seat of lesser honor. Jesus teaches that we should instead find those seats of less honor so that the host might call us up into a higher position.

Luke 14:12-24

Jesus then teaches, that when we are having a party, not to invite people that might repay us for their invitation, but rather invite those who would never be able to repay. Jesus then tells a story of a man who gave a great banquet. Those whom he had invited made many excuses as to why they could not attend. The host then asks his servants to go and invite all those they find out in the streets, complete strangers, and invite them in so that the banquet would be filled with guests. The idea is that, those for whom the banquet was intended rejected the invitation of the Host. So then, the invitation goes out to all.

Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds were accompanying Jesus and he explains to them the cost of being His disciple. If you come to Jesus, expect that relationship with Him to be of first importance. All other relationships will look like hatred compared to the relationship that you know have with the Son of God. It is a very extreme and radical relationship that Jesus seeks to have with those who follow Him. All who follow Jesus will bear a cross as they follow him. Jesus then talks about a man who builds a tower, how that man will sit down and plan out all that is necessary for the task. Jesus also talks about the planning of generals before they go into battle. Anyone who would follow Jesus should sit down and plan what the cost will be. That cost is simple. It will cost everything.

Luke 14:34-35

Jesus talks about the nature of salt. If salt were to lose its ability to flavor food, it would be good for nothing. Salt has been given a purpose, set forth by its creator. If salt loses the very purpose for its existence, then it should be thrown away. We are God's creation. We have been created so that God

would receive praise, glory and honor. If we reject God, we become like that salt, and are good for nothing.

Luke 15

The three parables that make up Luke 15 all hinge on the first two verses. The self-righteous are grumbling that Jesus receives and eats with sinners. So, Jesus tells them (the self-righteous) these three parables. The fact of the matter is this; the world is full of sinners and self-righteous. There is joy in heaven over sinners who repent and return to God in faith. The self-righteous do not see the need for a savior, because of the "perceived" fact that they are righteous in and of themselves.

Jesus will sacrifice 99 who have not wandered for that 1 lost sheep that has wandered away. This is an amazing love that God has for the lost.

The Prodigal Son is a tour de force of the story of faith. Three main characters occupy the narrative. The father (Jesus), the older son (the Self-righteous) and the younger son (Sinners) are put into precarious positions where they are forced to interact with each other. When this interaction reaches its culmination, i.e the reception of the sinner back into relationship with the Father, there is an immense tension that boils up. The story of the prodigal son will end with the killing of the father by the self-righteous. The fact of the matter is that any and all self-righteous want to kill and destroy the free grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.