In Luke 14:1-2 it is written that Jesus was in “the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath” and “a certain man [was brought] before Him who had dropsy.” As Jesus did so often in cases such as this, “He took him and healed him, and let him go.” That healing answered the question of the “lawyers and Pharisees” who were assembled there. “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” When “they could not answer Him regarding these things” He proceeded to teach “a parable” after watching them jockey for “the best places” to sit. As the others were listening, He told “those who were invited” that when a person gives “a dinner or a supper” he ought to “invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind” because he “will be blessed” and he “shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

This teaching of Jesus was just “too much” for “one of those who sat at the table with Him” hearing these words spoken by the Son of God, he could not restrain or conceal his excitement and enthusiasm. In front of everyone, without any reservation or inhibition, he exclaimed, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” I don’t know if he was reclining or sitting or standing when he said that. He may have been jumping up and down in his excitement. But when he heard the Son of God say what He said about suppers and guests who should be invited and seating arrangements, it was just too much for him to hold in. “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

Whoever the man was who said it, he was not a man who was saved by the blood of Christ for that blood had not yet been shed on the cross. Whoever he was, he was not a member of the blood bought church of Christ. Whoever he was, he was not a Christian and yet he shouted, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” What Jesus said concerning John the Baptist in Matthew 11 could also be said of this man of Luke 14:15. “...he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than” this man of Luke 14. We would to God that those who are in the “kingdom of heaven,” the church, were as excited about eating “bread in the kingdom of God” as was this man.

Jesus didn’t rebuke or correct the man and why should He have? The man was right. “Blessed” is the man who eats “bread in the kingdom of God!” And “blessed” is the man who drinks “the fruit of the vine” too. He is “blessed” because he has been invited by the One whose Table it is to eat and drink. It is His Table; it is His “loaf”; and, it is His “cup.” It is not our Table or our “loaf” or our “cup.” Neither the Table nor anything on the Table belongs to us. But we belong to the One who owns it all and He has invited us to eat and drink in “remembrance” of Him.
We are “blessed” because we have been saved from our sins and from the consequences of our sins: in our present life, from the guilt and shame and power of sin; in our future life, from the eternal “wages of sin,” death in hell. We are “blessed” because in this life and at the Judgment to come “we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” As the Apostle Paul comprehensively wrote in Ephesians 1:3, we Christians have been “blessed...with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

As far as the written record is concerned, immediately after the man of Luke 14:15 made his exclamation, Jesus proceeded to teach a parable about a “great supper” and the many who had been “invited” to it but who, for various reasons, made excuses why they could not attend. They should have felt honored and privileged and have been excited about attending but they excused themselves from the “supper” that had been prepared at no cost to them. The master of the “supper” would not let His Table be vacant. If those who had been “invited” would not come, He would invite still others. Others were “invited” and compelled “to come in, that [His] house may be filled.” And they came. There is always room at the Table for “others.”

What a heart-breaking tragedy to think of those who have been “invited,” those who have been “blessed,” but for some inexcusable reason do not think that they have the time to be there. We can not do much for the uncommitted and delinquent “blessed.” But we can come to the Table with the exhilaration of the man in Luke 14:15: “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, you have honored us by saving us from our sins and inviting us to the Table of Your Son, Jesus. We come to this table to honor Him by remembering what He did for us even before we were conceived. You knew that we would need forgiveness of our sins and you knew that we would not and could not receive it on our own, by our own merit. So You did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We thank You for that. We thank you for providing this Table. Help us to understand how blessed we are to eat this bread and to drink this cup in Your kingdom, the church. Lord, we owe You an unpayable debt. We thank You for making the payment for us. It is in the name of Christ that we offer this prayer to you. Amen.