**Building Walls Instead of Surrendering to Enjoy the Victor’s Feast**

The gospel is full of paradoxical statements: Matt.13:13, *“while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear;”*  2Cor.12:10, *“for when I am weak, then I am strong;”* Jas.4:10, *“humble yourselves… and He will exalt you;”* Matt.10:39, *“He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it.”*  There are also paradoxical concepts: *serve* in order to be *blessed* (John 13:12-17); *die* in order to *live* (Rom.6:2-11); and even *surrender* in order to *overcome* or *be victorious* (Matt.5:39).

**It is this concept of *surrendering* to be *victorious* that I’d like us to consider from Luke 14.**

* They had to surrender their *doctrinal* *“sacred cow”* of Sabbath law, vv.1-6.
* They had to surrender their *pride,* vv.7-12. And,
* They had to surrender their *reciprocal quid pro quo* expectation and arrangements*,* vv.12-14.

In order to *feast in the kingdom,* there were (and **are**) some other “sacred cows” that will also have to be surrendered…

1. **Material Possessions, v.18**

Note that he offered the *excuse* of *need-* this says that his *material pursuits* and *possessions* were more important to him than the *spiritual feast of the kingdom.* He then *asks* to be *excused.*

1. **Business Professions, v.19**

This man offers the excuse of *occupation-* he’s *too busy* with *business* to be concerned with the *spiritual feast of the kingdom.* He rebelliously says, *“I am going”* to *try them out,* **then** asks to be *excused.*

1. **Personal Relationships, v.20**

The final man offers to the excuse of *family obligation,* and boldly states, *“for this reason, I* ***cannot*** *come.”* He presumed himself *unable* because of personal/family relationship, and didn’t even bother to ask to be *excused.*

Now note the response of *the Master…*

* *Others* (*Gentiles*) were invited *in their place* (that of the *first-invited, Jews)* so that *“my house may be filled,”* vv.21-23; and,
* *None of those who were invited shall taste* (let alone, *feast!*) *of my dinner,”* v.24.

**But let’s talk about *us* rather than just *them.* Do we:**

1. **Put supposed *need* (based on our *desires for* and *estimations of*) *material possessions* before the spiritual feast of the kingdom?**

Luke 12:31 🡪 14:12-14,18,33. To enjoy the *spiritual feast of the kingdom,* we must view the *material things of life* with the proper perspective, and keep them in their proper place, Luke 12:33-34.

1. **Decide we’re *too busy* or *necessarily occupied* with *business pursuits/professions* to attend the spiritual feast of the kingdom?**

Luke 12:31 🡪 14:19,28-32,34-35. To enjoy the *spiritual feast of the kingdom,* we must trust in the *provision of God* enough to put His interests first, 12:22-30. Be sure to have the right *dedications* and *devotions.*

1. **Put *family first* even ahead of the spiritual feast of the kingdom?**

Luke 12:31 🡪 14:20,26,27. To enjoy the *spiritual feast of the kingdom,* we must have the right *affections,* and place a premium on the right *family affiliations.*

**Conclusions:**

**We have a gospel meeting beginning next Sunday. While it is not the *spiritual feast* of Jesus’ parable, it is a small sample size offering. What will you surrender to be able to *enjoy it?***

**Will you *make excuses* based on the things you feel you *need* to do instead? Will you *make excuses* based on *pressing business* and rebel?**

**Will you *make excuses* based on *personal/family relationships,* or bring them with you?**

**For us to *sit down with* and *enjoy the spiritual feast of the kingdom* with Jesus, we must stop *putting up walls* around our own *desires, expectations,* and *family situations* and put *first things first.***

**Are you willing to do this, or will you make *excuses.***