



Does Christianity Require an Attitude Check?

Luke 14:18: (NASB) *But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.*



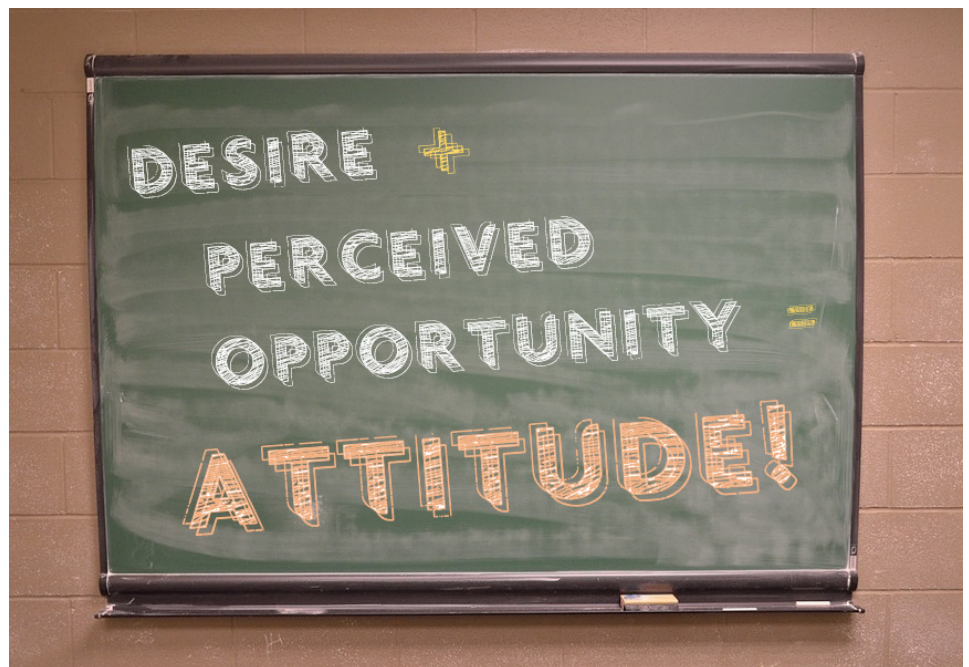
For a Christian, following Christ is supposed to be a way of life. It is supposed to dominate our thinking and actions, which means it is supposed to dominate our attitude as well. This can be a problem, because we often do not focus on our attitude - instead we just use whatever attitude we might have at the moment to dictate what our thoughts and actions will be. What drives our attitude? What makes, shakes or breaks it? How can we drive our attitude so it can drive us to Christ?

Introduction, *Negative Attitude Could Cost You, Fox News*

- (News anchor) *Our jobs can sometimes feel like a grind, and sometimes it's easier to focus on what's NOT working than what is.*
- (News anchor) *But a new study shows having a negative attitude can actually cost you on payday. Fox medical team's Beth Galvin explains.*
- (Beth Galvin) *Almost all of us have a coworker who's a cynic, and you know what I'm talking about. They see the problems and what's not working, but what do you do if the cynic is you? New research shows that if you can change your attitude, it may pay off for you big time. If you've got a bad attitude it may be hurting your career, and that's no surprise to psychologist Wendy Dickenson.*
- (Wendy Dickenson) *I think attitude is really important because so much of what we do in our careers is influenced by what we believe about ourselves, what we believe about other people and what we believe about the world.*



What
develops a
person's
attitude?





We are going to use the Parable of the Great Dinner in [Luke 14:16-24](#) to help us identify what drives our attitude. However, before we get to the Parable, let us look at [Luke 14:1-15](#) and see what attitudes Jesus observed. This will show us why he used the story and how important attitude is!

Observations regarding the context [leading up to the Parable of the Great Dinner](#):

- Jesus ate with the Pharisees:

[Luke 14:1](#): (NRSV) *On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.*



What is the Pharisees' attitude displayed here? Guarded anticipation perhaps?

This was not the first time Jesus ate with the Pharisees - he did it often:

[Luke 7:36](#): (KJV) *And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house and sat down to meat.*

[Luke 11:37](#): (KJV) *And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in and sat down to meat.*

- Jesus healed on the Sabbath - something he often did:

[Luke 14:2-6](#): (NRSV) ²*Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. ³And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath, or not? ⁴But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. ⁵Then he said to them, if one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day? ⁶And they could not reply to this.*

The Pharisees thought healing was "work," and Jesus broke the Sabbath by working. They did not see Jesus as enhancing the Law and in fact saw him as their competition for the favor of the people.

What is the Pharisees' attitude displayed here? Anger and caution perhaps?

- Jesus spoke in parables when he saw a lesson needing to be taught:

[Luke 14:7](#): (NRSV) *When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.*

What is Jesus' attitude displayed here? Love and compassion! He wants to help them rise above to a higher level of thinking.

[Luke 16:13-15](#): (NIV) ¹³*No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. ¹⁴The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵He said to them, You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.*

Jesus called them out for not having an attitude that brought glory to God. But what drove their attitude?



Desire + Perceived Opportunity = Attitude Is attitude really THAT important?

- Jesus teaches a much-needed lesson in personal humility by way of a parable:

Luke 14:8-11: (NRSV) ⁸When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, give this person your place, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, Friend, move up higher; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.



Those coming to dinner had the **DESIRE** to be well-recognized, wanting to be looked at as somebody special. (SHOULD HAVE BEEN humble.)

Their **PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITY** was to get the best seat so others coming in could see they were special. (SHOULD HAVE BEEN to take the lowest seat and see what the situation offered.)

Their **ATTITUDE** was self-absorbed. (SHOULD HAVE BEEN one of expectation rather than "look at me.")

Using the parable, Jesus taught them to be humble and allow their circumstances to bring out whatever "specialness" existed. This is a simple but often-overlooked lesson, for we so easily focus on what we want rather than what any given experience will appropriately produce.

This warning came later:

Luke 20:46-47: (NRSV) Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁷They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.

What is the Pharisees' attitude displayed here? Pride and position perhaps?

Do WE ever have these kinds of attitudes?

This was not a new lesson. Like so many of Jesus' teachings, it had an Old Testament basis:

Proverbs 25:6-7: NRSV) ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; ⁷for it is better to be told, come up here, than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

🔊 **What's your story, How to Reframe Your Attitude on Mindset Monday, FitLifeTV**

- ...Number two is to really start examining the story that you're telling yourself in your own mind and asking yourself if that story is serving your highest good, because there's stories that you and I have based on our past experience, our relationships, whatever story we're saying around money, things like that. Ask yourself, "What is the story I'm telling myself? Is it serving me to my



highest good?" Give it some time. Really think about it. When is the last time you just sat for 30-45 minutes and really thought about your life?

- After telling the Parable, Jesus gives a kind admonishing to his host based on its lessons:

Luke 14:12-14: (NRSV) ¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, when you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

Jesus challenged his host to "break the code" and step out of the "give to get" attitude into an attitude of benevolence! Christianity is NOT supposed to be about getting wealth, position, comfort or personal satisfaction. It is supposed to bring us to a point of humility and following after the will of God.

James 2:1-5: (NRSV) ¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, have a seat here, please, while to the one who is poor you say, stand there, or, sit at my feet, ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters, has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

James' lesson was in line with Jesus' teachings. Just because someone does not have a lot of material wealth does not mean they are less worthy or valuable. As a matter of fact, they could be more valuable in the eyes of God because of a more humble attitude.



When we look at those around us, what eyes are we looking at them with? Are they the eyes of social or political standing and comparison or are they the eyes of understanding and compassion? What do we DO with what we SEE?



A caller from Connecticut asks if attitude and personality are the same.

No. An example that comes to mind is the Apostle Paul before he was converted to Christianity. Saul of Tarsus spent his time persecuting Christians, but God saw good in him because his character was good. Personality and attitude are different. Someone with a strong character can have a bad attitude.

Attitude is something we can change. Today we want to understand what drives our attitude to figure out how to change it depending on the circumstances around us. For Satan to thwart God's plan, he needs to keep us off focus, off the mark or somehow distract us from being faithful. Satan uses certain desires and perceived opportunities we have to craftily change our attitude to not be Christ-like.



Can your attitude make you a "good guy" or a "bad guy"?

Summation of the context:

- Jesus eats with the Pharisees and they watch him closely.
- Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees do not like it but have no answer.
- Jesus speaks in parables when he sees a lesson needing to be taught. This shows his love and compassion. His attitude was one of "building up." The Pharisees' was one of skepticism and "tearing down."
- Jesus teaches a much-needed lesson in personal humility by way of a parable.
- Jesus gives a kind admonishing to his host, based on the previous parable. He was focused on the attitudes displayed before him.



Cynicism, *Negative Attitude Could Cost You*, Fox News

- *(News reporter) New research published by the American Psychological Association shows that cynicism, or having a negative attitude, can have a toxic effect on a person's earnings.*
- *(Psychologist) I think part of the problem with cynicism in the workplace is that nobody really wants to work with someone who's negative and difficult and a lot of work that we do is team-based.*
- *(News reporter) One German study of 16,000 workers found that those who reported lower levels of cynicism on the job earned on average about \$300 a month more than their more cynical coworkers.*
- *(Psychologist) I think cynicism can impact your level of productivity; it can impact your relationship with your coworkers or your boss. Cynicisms will show up in evaluations that you get and those evaluations ultimately lead towards pay increases.*

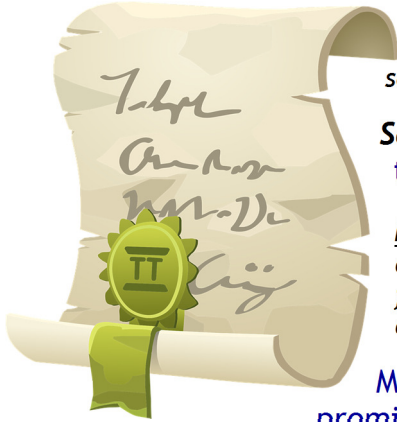
When we have a cynical attitude, we are not looking towards anything valuable and positive. How do you become cynical? What do you desire? What do you see as a perceived opportunity?



A caller from Connecticut suggests Jeremiah 17:9: *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it.* Proverbs 23:7: *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.*

Attitude directs how we think and what we do.

Now that we have reviewed the context, we drop in on Jesus speaking the next parable to this dinner guest:



Luke 14:15-16: (NRSV) ¹⁵One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, *blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!* ¹⁶Then Jesus said to him, *someone gave a great dinner and invited many.*

Someone gave a great dinner: Representing God Himself who prepared the Messiah to bring a calling of blessing.

Malachi 4:5-6: (NASB) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.

Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet and he explained that God promised to send Elijah to draw the people to Him. There was an idea of preparation.

Invited many: Representing the Jewish people. The call of the gospel went out exclusively to the Jews up until the conversion of Cornelius.

(Source: Biblical commentary by C.T. Russell) It was customary to send out the notifications long in advance, without specifying exactly the time, which would depend upon contingent circumstances.

The Jewish people had a very distinct privilege:

Amos 3:1-2: (NRSV) ¹Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt: ²**You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.**

They had an expectation of the promised seed during this time:

Matthew 2:1-2: (NRSV) ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

Back to the parable:

Luke 14:17: (NRSV) At the time for the dinner he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, come; for everything is ready now.

His servant: Representing John the Baptist going out to the guests with the invitations.

John the Baptist was foretold. How important is attitude? Listen to what the angel said:

Luke 1:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷It is he who will go as a forerunner before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.



If you think about it, John's work was to be the "attitude adjuster" sent by God. Acceptance of the Messiah would depend on attitude! John's whole message was repentance, which begins with attitude.



John's work was to refocus the attitude of the people. Their desire was towards wanting to see their Messiah - that was good. But until the time of John the Baptist, there had been no real opportunity. John presents the perceived opportunity and tells the people to change their attitude to one of repentance.

recap
recap

Recap: The attitude of the Pharisees was one of skepticism towards Jesus and pride in their own standing. Jesus, having gently observed this, has begun teaching them the pitfalls of where their attitude is leading them. We left our parable at the point when the great dinner (the calling by Messiah) had been prepared and the Master (God) sent word out to his invited guests (the Jewish nation) via his servant (John the Baptist). What happens next?

Luke 14:18: (NRSV) *But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.*



No one wanted to hear the time of the banquet had arrived!



 **What you look for you find, Negative Attitude Could Cost You, Fox News**

- (Reporter) Dickenson says what you look for you find.
- (Psychologist) If you are looking for solutions to problems, you're looking for positivity, you're looking for growth and efficiency - you're most likely going to find that.
- (Reporter) It is possible to change your attitude. Dickenson says start looking at how you approach a problem.
- (Psychologist) A pessimist may focus primarily on the problem; what's wrong, what happened, what was broken, who broke it. The optimists may be more likely to focus on, "Okay, we have this problem. How are we going to fix it?"
- (Reporter) Dickenson encourages people who are natural cynics to single out their more positive coworkers and talk to them. Find out how they approach problems and what you can do to change your approach.

Here begins the real core of the lesson Jesus is teaching: We all have a life in which many things take our attention - so much so that we can lose out on great things because we are focused on other things. What determines our focus? Our attitude!



We see prophetically how the invitation to the Great Dinner would work out:

John 1:11: (NRSV) *He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.*


Those who are of a seeking attitude can receive the gospel. For those who think they have already found all they need, there is no reason for them to look - a closed off attitude.

Today's Christian leaders need to be careful not to act like the Pharisees, clinging to complacencies and traditions. Parishioners need to be on guard against the so-called Prosperity Gospel, which focuses on "me" instead of Christ. We want to focus on what Christianity offers - a way to follow Jesus.

We will explore three things that get in the way of our attitude. Before we finish the Parable of the Dinner, let's take a quick look at the end lesson of another parable, the Parable of the Sower...

Mark 4:11-12: (NRSV) ¹¹*And he said to them, to you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.*

The Parable of the Sower shows us three kinds of failure in receiving the gospel using the type of ground as a metaphor. **For more on this Parable, please see our program from February 21, 2016, "Is the Power of the Gospel Fading?"**

	<p>"Thorny ground"</p> <p>The seed is choked out, produces no crop, does not necessarily die</p> <p>Signifies: Heart acceptance but no discipline to follow through</p>
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Three types of ground failed to produce fruit: By the wayside, rocky ground and thorny ground. The thorny ground was a little different from the other two, as the gospel seeds actually grew.

But three problems occurred:

Mark 4:18-19: (NRSV) ¹⁸*And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹but **the cares of the world**, and **the lure of wealth**, and **the desire for other things** come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing.*


All of these things choked out the gospel seed.

These three attitude-shapers from the Parable of the Sower fit well with the sources of sin laid out here:

1 John 2:16: (NASB) *For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh** and **the lust of the eyes** and **the boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*





Parable of the Dinner <i>Three excuses people use to decline the invitation to the gospel call</i>	Parable of the Sower <i>Three things choke out the gospel seed</i>	Sources of Sin <i>Three sources identified in 1 John 2:16</i>
<p>"I have to see my new land!" <u>Luke 14:18</u></p> 	<p>"The cares of the world" <u>Mark 4:19</u></p>	<p>"The lust of the eyes" <u>1 John 2:16</u></p>

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11: (ASV) ¹⁰He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance, with increase: this also is vanity. ¹¹When goods increase; they are increased that eat them; and what advantage is there to the owner thereof, save the beholding of them with his eyes?



Our desire is easily stimulated by what we see. What we see ignites our imagination for what we would like to have or to be, and that sets our attitude towards a narrow and pride-laden focus like Jesus' audience. What we see triggers desire, which will eventually trigger attitude. Am I like those Pharisees?

Solution:

Psalms 119:36-37: (NRSV) ³⁶Turn my heart **(DESIRE)** to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. ³⁷Turn my eyes **(PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITY)** from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways **(ATTITUDE)**.



What is the one thing that drives the attitudes of MOST people?

Luke 14:19: (NRSV) Another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.

In other words, "I need to unveil my new income stream!" You bought a yoke of oxen so they could work and produce for you. One person could not try out five yoke of oxen, so this would have been quite a business.





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Yet ANOTHER Parable addresses this!

Luke 12:16-21: (NRSV) ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, what should I do, for I have no place to store my crops? **(DESIRE)** ¹⁸Then he said, I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **(PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITY)** ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry. **(ATTITUDE)** ²⁰But God said to him, you fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be? ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.

The attitude of the man in the story was a direct result of his desires and opportunities.



What is the MOST IMPORTANT THING to you?

Answering this question honestly could be depressing!

Our desire is easily stimulated by what we have and by what we think we can gain from what we have. Our attitude rises and falls according to that focus. Jesus saw the blindness his audience had to higher things - he saw them trapped by an attitude of complacency.

What about ME? Do I have that same problem?



Solution:

Matthew 6:19-21: (NRSV) ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures **(DESIRE)** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. **(PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITY)** ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **(ATTITUDE)**

Laugh, How to Reframe Your Attitude on Mindset Monday, FitLifeTV

- This might be tough for some people, depending on the situation, but I know if you're watching this video you've attracted it into your life for a reason and number three is to laugh when it hurts. If you've ever seen a kid fall on the playground and hurt themselves, if nobody's watching them, what do they do? Often times they just giggle about it. So, put yourself in a state of spontaneous laughter for no reason.



Luke 14:20: (NRSV) Another said, I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.

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<p>"I am newly married!" <u>Luke 14:20</u></p>	<p>"The desire for other things" <u>Mark 4:19</u></p>	<p>"The lust of the flesh" <u>1 John 2:16</u></p>



But surely marriage was a legitimate reason and not an excuse? Well, for the incredible opportunity Jesus was offering them compared with the attitude they adopted, it was only an excuse. Jesus was simply illustrating the necessity of priorities: God, His will and His plan comes first.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31: (NASB) ²⁹*But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;* ³⁰*and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;* ³¹*and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.*

Our desire is easily rationalized with the parts of our lives that are truly important, which gives us an attitude of self-justification. Jesus' message here is that we should instead seek to adopt an attitude of God-glorification.

Solution:

Romans 14:5-8: (NASB) ⁵*One person regards one day above another; another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind* **(DESIRE)**. ⁶*He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.* ⁷*For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;* **(PERCEIVED OPPORTUNITY)** ⁸*for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.* **(ATTITUDE)**

What do all of our well-contrived excuses actually do for us?

Luke 14:21: (NRSV) *So the (servant) returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his (servant), go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.*



Parable Of The Great Supper by Harold Copping

With the rejection of a nation with a bad attitude came an open door to those who were willing:

Matthew 11:28-30: (NRSV) ²⁸*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

All you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens - Representing the individual Jews of the time and no longer the nation. Note the invitation is still local (still in town). For three and a half years after Pentecost, the call went to those Jews whose attitude was such that they could hear the gospel call.

All the excuses to the dinner meant the Jewish nation missed out on a higher opportunity.



Luke 14:22-24: (NRSV) ²²And the (servant) said, sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room. ²³Then the master said to the (servant), go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.

After going to the people in town, there still was not enough to fill the banquet hall. **Go out into the roads and the lanes:** Representing the gospel call going out further, beyond the Jewish nation.

Back to the Pharisees after Jesus repeatedly tried to teach them:

Matthew 23:37-38: (KJV) ³⁷O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **(MISPLACED DESIRE)** how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, **(IGNORED OPPORTUNITY)** and ye would not! **(IDOLATROUS ATTITUDE)** ³⁸Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. **(LOST BLESSING)**



Now the invitation goes throughout the rest of the world (just like in the Parable of the Dinner), beginning with Cornelius:

Acts 13:46-47: (NRSV) ⁴⁶Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

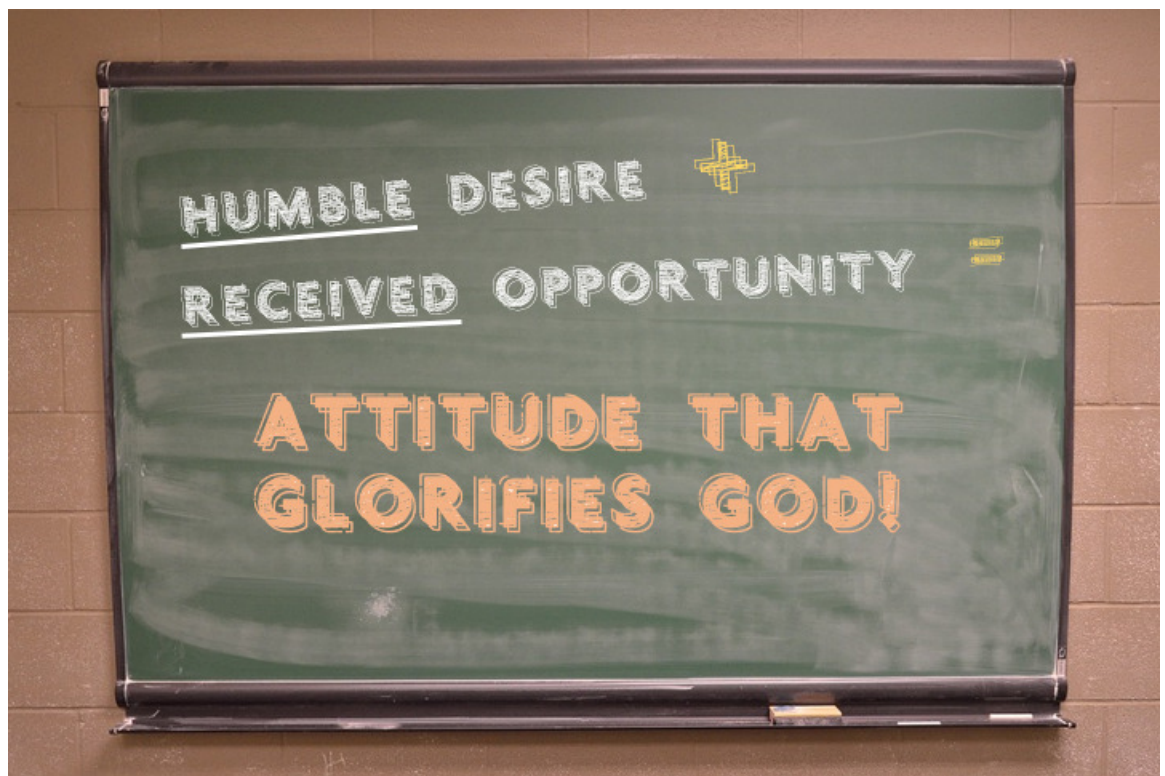
We see the Parable of the Dinner is all about attitude. The attitude of those who were originally invited was detrimental - they lost out on the blessings of the gospel. They would miss the opportunity to be footstep followers of Jesus.



))) Change your mood, How to Reframe Your Attitude on Mindset Monday, FitLifeTV

- *Instead of focusing how you can change the situation, focus on changing your mood. Have you ever had your mood be at an all time low and it brings things into your life that day that maybe didn't serve you, or you felt bad about or you were kind of stuck in the mud all day long? If you could change your mood by doing something or raising your vibration, then ultimately your reality starts to change as well. How do you change your mood? Listen to music, hang out with kids and maybe write a thank you note to someone you haven't talked to in awhile. You'll notice as your mood starts to change, the way that your attitude was based on that situation that you couldn't change - or you thought you couldn't change - starts to shift as well.*

Taking control of and understanding our attitude will bring us one place or another. We can choose to change our attitude by changing the focus of our primary desire. Watch carefully for the three areas that bring us down: *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.*



Bottom line lessons for us based on the rejection of those whose hearts and minds were not open to accept the gospel call when Jesus first came:

- True Christianity is an invitation - let us set our desire on this most amazing opportunity and focus our attitude to be one of humble acceptance.
- True Christianity is a distinct and high privilege. Let us have an attitude of single-mindedness and reaching up.
- God does not need ME to fulfill His Plan! Let us forge an attitude of thankfulness for His unmerited grace.



1 Peter 5:6-8: (NRSV) *⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. **(HUMBLE DESIRE)** ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. **(RECEIVED OPPORTUNITY)** ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. **(ATTITUDE THAT GLORIFIES GOD)** Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.*

What is our desire and is it in agreement with what is required of us? What do we see as our opportunity and is it in agreement with what is required of us? What is our attitude - to glorify self? Glorify God?

Change your attitude to glorify God!

*So, does Christianity require an attitude check?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



This was not the only time Jesus healed on the Sabbath - he did it often:

Mark 3:4: (KJV) *And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.*

John 7:23: (KJV) *If a man on the Sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law Of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the Sabbath day?*

Luke 6:9: (KJV) *Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? To save life, or to destroy it?*

Luke 13:14-15: (NRSV) *¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, there are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day. ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, you hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?*

A little more on a few of the lessons of our story

Jesus gives a kind admonishing to his host, based on the previous parable:

Luke 14:12-14: (NRSV) *¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, when you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*



More on the challenge - break the code! Step out of the give to get attitude into an attitude of benevolence:

Luke 6:32-36: (NRSV) ³²If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 25:37-40: (NRSV) ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Some "Attitude Check" Scriptures

What is your attitude about money?

Luke 21:34: (NRSV) *Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly.*

1 Timothy 6:9-10: (NRSV) ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Hebrews 13:5-6: (NRSV) ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, I will never leave you or forsake you. ⁶So we can say with confidence, the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?

What is your attitude towards others?

Galatians 5:13-17: (NASB) ¹³For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶But I say walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

What is your attitude towards our privilege and service?

2 Timothy 2:3-4: (NRSV) ³Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer.

James 2:5: (NRSV) *Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?*

Scriptures to back up the final points of our conversation

True Christianity is a calling - an invitation:

Matthew 22:11-14: (NRSV) ¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe? And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.



Ephesians 4:4-6: (NRSV) *⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12: (NRSV) *¹¹To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

True Christianity is a distinct and high privilege:

1 Peter 2:9-11: (NRSV) *⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.*

Romans 8:16-18: (NRSV) *¹⁶It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.*

God does not need ME to fulfill His plan:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: (NRSV) *²⁴Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; ²⁷but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.*

Matthew 5:13-16: (NRSV) *¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

We had better watch our attitude!

1 Peter 5:6-8: (NRSV) *⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.*