

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #52

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 14:1-11

Sermon Date: Sep 17, 2006

Ouch!

I stepped on some people last week. I didn't mean to. You see, I had some "great" ideas to share at a meeting I was invited to. Several people even commented about how helpful my ideas and inputs had been. Then came loving rebukes from two friends who separately pointed out that I'd been so quick to share my stuff that I had dishonored and frustrated the others in the meeting. Ouch! Looking back, I can see how right they were. I was more concerned with myself and my ideas than with loving my neighbor. Since then, I've been working to do a better job of honoring the ideas and inputs of others.

What's your brand of stepping on people? Where is it in your life that you jockey for position with others, whether on purpose or unknowingly?

In this week's passage, Jesus has a loving rebuke for us. Once again, our shortcomings are so well personified by the Pharisees as they miss the point of the Scriptures and get caught in their sinfulness. As you start this study, ask God to reveal your own failings and to show you the good way – the way of following Jesus' example.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week’s Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹ One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.</p> <p>⁵ Then he asked them, “If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?”</p> <p>⁶ And they had nothing to say.</p> <p>⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable:</p> <p>⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.</p> <p>¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”</p>	

2. What should these “experts in the law” have already known about humility from the Old Testament? Explore the following OT verses and note what they teach about humility.

2 Chr 7:14

Ps 25:9

Prov 3:34

Prov 11:2

Prov 15:33

Prov 25:6-7

Isa 66:2

3. How well do the Pharisees and experts in the law seem to be doing at applying these OT teachings about humility?

4. How did Jesus apply the principle of Luke 14:11 in his own life? (Consider Philippians 2:3-11)

5. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

6. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Closer:

7. Re-read the first four verses carefully – what seat did Jesus appear to take at the table? Who did this put Jesus closest to?

8. Why do you suppose there was a sick man at this dinner? (Recall that the sick were considered “unclean” and were usually avoided.)

9. Why do you suppose Jesus sent the man away after healing him, rather than having him stay and enjoy the meal and the company?

10. What is the connection between verses 1-6 and verses 7-11?

A rich man grumbles as he shares his pocket change with a poor man. A popular person serves a visibly broken and lonely person, but without being willing to truly enter her world to know and love her. Have you seen this? Have you done this?

Why is it so hard for us to humbly take our places “behind others at the table” as Jesus spoke about and did in Luke 14?

Apply It:

11. Who are some people you typically “sit in front of” by viewing or positioning yourself as if you are better than them? Don’t rush by this question – search your soul – write down some of their names.

12. What can you literally do this week to place yourself behind these people you have identified above?

13. What is the main point of Luke 14:1-11?

14. How does this main point apply to your life right now?

15. Close your time of study by asking God to help you to be more humble. Thank Jesus for His example, and for the ultimate humiliation He endured to enable your salvation. Try using Philippians 2:3-11 as a template for your prayer time. Take one verse or phrase at a time, and talk to God about it, sharing the thoughts and feelings that come to mind as you go.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷ but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:3-11)