

Luke 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

Analysis

Luke introduces another Sabbath controversy: 'And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.' Jesus accepted an invitation to dine with 'one of the chief Pharisees,' demonstrating His willingness to engage even hostile opponents. The meal occurred 'on the sabbath day,' setting up another confrontation over Sabbath observance. The phrase 'they watched him' (καὶ αὐτοὶ ἡσαν παρατηρούμενοι αὐτόν, kai autoi ēsan paratēroumenoi auton) indicates hostile surveillance—they were looking for grounds to accuse Him. This dinner becomes the setting for teaching about humility (vv. 7-11), generosity (vv. 12-14), and kingdom invitation (vv. 15-24).

Historical Context

Pharisees commonly hosted Sabbath meals after synagogue worship, inviting teachers and discussing Torah. That a 'chief Pharisee' (ἀρχόντων τῶν Φαρισαίων, archontōn tōn Pharisiōn) invited Jesus suggests either genuine curiosity or calculated entrapment. The presence of a man with dropsy (v. 2) may have been arranged to test whether Jesus would heal on the Sabbath. Jesus consistently used meal settings for significant teaching (Luke 5:29-32, 7:36-50, 19:1-10), demonstrating that discipleship involves all of life, including social interactions.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus accept invitations from hostile Pharisees, and what does this teach about engaging opponents?
2. How does the Pharisees' hostile watching contrast with the disciples' faithful following?
3. What does Jesus' willingness to dine with enemies teach about Christian witness and bridge-building?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐγένετο	ἐν	τῷ	ἐλθεῖν	αὐτόν	εἰς	οἶκόν	τινος
And	it came to pass	as	G3588	went	he	into	the house	of one
G2532	G1096	G1722		G2064	G846	G1519	G3624	G5100

τῷν	ἀρχόντων	τῷν	Φαρισαίων	σαββάτῳ	φαγεῖν	ἄρτον
G3588	of the chief	G3588	Pharisees	on the sabbath	to eat	bread
	G758		G5330	G4521	G5315	G740

καὶ	αὐτόν	ἵσαν	παρατηρούμενοι	αὐτόν
And	he	they watched	G3906	he
G2532	G846	G2258		G846

Additional Cross-References

Mark 3:2 (Parallel theme): And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

Psalms 41:6 (Parallel theme): And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it.

Psalms 62:4 (Parallel theme): They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

Luke 20:20 (Parallel theme): And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

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

Psalms 37:32 (Parallel theme): The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

Proverbs 23:7 (Parallel theme): For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Luke 6:7 (Resurrection): And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.