

Luke 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

Analysis

A guest responds: 'And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.' This statement seems pious—acknowledging the blessing of participating in God's kingdom. The phrase 'eat bread in the kingdom of God' (φάγεται ἄρτον ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ, phagetai arton en tē basileia tou Theou) uses meal imagery for eschatological blessing (Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 8:11). However, the man likely assumes he and his fellow Pharisees will naturally participate, based on ethnic privilege and religious achievement. Jesus' parable (vv. 16-24) will challenge this presumption, showing that invitation doesn't guarantee participation—response matters.

Historical Context

Jewish eschatology anticipated a messianic banquet where the righteous would feast with God. This hope sustained Israel through oppression and exile. However, many assumed ethnic descent from Abraham guaranteed participation. Jesus consistently challenged this presumption (Luke 3:8, 13:28-29, John 8:39-41). The kingdom isn't inherited genetically but entered through faith and repentance. The guest's statement, though correct in itself, likely reflected presumptuous confidence rather than humble hope. The parable that follows exposes the danger of assuming salvation based on religious privilege.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can theologically correct statements mask spiritual presumption?
2. What contemporary forms of presuming salvation based on religious heritage, church membership, or doctrinal knowledge exist?
3. How should Christians hold together confident assurance of salvation with humble awareness that presumption damns?

Interlinear Text

Ἀκούσας	δέ	τις	τῶν	συνανακειμένων			ταῦτα
heard	And	when one	G3588	of them that sat at meat with him			these things
G191	G1161	G5100		G4873			G5023
εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Μακάριος	ὃς	φάγεται	ἄρτον	ἐν	τῇ
he said	unto him	Blessed	is he	that shall eat	bread	in	G3588
G2036	G846	G3107	G3739	G5315	G740	G1722	
βασιλεία	τοῦ	θεοῦ					
the kingdom	G3588	of God					
G932		G2316					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:9 (Blessing): And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Luke 13:29 (Kingdom): And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:30 (Kingdom): That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 25:10 (Parallel theme): And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 8:11 (Kingdom): And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 12:37 (Blessing): Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.