

COMMENTARY

Chapter 13:

- vs. 1-9 The event that took place was probably Herod having several Galileans slain in the temple while they were offering their sacrifices. Many would have seen this as God judging these individuals by having them put to death in the temple by one so cruel as Herod. Jesus explains that their deaths were not God's judgment on them.
- The Siloam incident was probably where Jerusalem residents were helping to construct an aqueduct funded by the Romans from money that had been taken from the temple. Once, again, many would have seen this as God judging these 18 for their participation. Jesus says that this was not the case but warns those present that they needed to repent.
- It is common in the east to include fruit trees in ones vineyard. It was regarded as a sin against God to cut down a fruitful tree. This particular fig tree had been planted by the owner and now in the 3rd year it had yet to bear fruit. The fig trees in that region bear fruit 10 months out of the year and begin bearing in the first couple years and always before the end of the 3rd. The Jews would have demanded it to be cut down because 1. it was unfruitful, 2. taking room where a fruitful tree could be, and 3. its roots were destroying the ground and not providing any benefit. Even so, the gardener pleads and asks to intercede. This is a picture of God the owner about to cut Israel out from His Kingdom and Jesus intercedes to work with them and try to make them productive.
- vs. 10-17 The woman fails to ask Jesus for healing and then fails to show her faith in Him after His pronouncement of healing. Jesus then assist her and she is made whole.
- The religious leaders taught that one could take their animals out for water on the sabbath and could even collect the water as long as they led the animal to the water and did not bring the water to the animal.
- vs. 11-21 The parables of the yeast and the Mustard seed show how God's Kingdom may have seemed insignificant at the start but soon reached out in great ways throughout the world.
- vs. 22-30 The question about being saved would have been in regard to seeing the time of the Messiah. Jesus explains that many who expect to be there (the religious leaders, zealous Jews, etc.) would find that they had missed the boat and were not found acceptable by the Messiah, Himself.
- vs. 31-35 Jesus is warned that Herod is going to kill Him there in Perea. This was done to get Jesus to leave. Jesus explains that He still has work to do for a brief time before He is to be killed. He also stated that His death would not be by Herod in Perea but by the Jews themselves in Jerusalem.

COMMENTARY

Chapter 14

vs. 1-14 The Pharisees made it a common practice to have especially large and exquisite meals on the Sabbath. Dropsy is simply the retaining of water and is caused by a malfunction of one of the bodies organs. Jesus once again states His position on the sabbath (see ch. 13:10-17).

The Pharisees were very picky about people sitting in the correct spon and would not hesitate to ask one person to move and give his seat to another. The guests here, all seek out the most honorable spot that they can find. In that country, the most honorable would be to recline at the middle spot of the table. The second most honored would be at that persons right and the third most honored at the persons left. It would alternate from the right of the most honored to the left of the most honored until everyone was seated. In this manner everyone was "rated" not like ours where the head of the table is the most honored and little emphasis is placed on the rest.

Jesus in this discourse, not only emphasized humility but also to provide for the poor.

vs. 15-24 One man trying to exalt himself, speaks words that he feels Jesus would approve of. Jesus then tells a parable subtly suggesting that many of the religious leaders would not be among the group who would eat at that feast.

The man preparing the banquet represents God. The servant represents those who will do God's work. Those who make excuses are ones who were invited, had planned on going, but had felt that it was not going to be that great, and what they had would be more pleasant. Those that these men would have looked down on are instead welcomed to the feast and partake. These would be the sinners and the Gentiles who accept God's invitation of salvation while those who had the first opportunity (the Jews) reject His offer.

vs. 25-34 Many people were now following Jesus and had little conception of the great sacrifices that they would have to make. Jesus states that one must be willing to put God before even family to be found acceptable. Jesus is not advocating actual "hating"; just an obvious show of ones priorities.

Jesus used to ordinary, easily understood illustrations to emphasize His teaching of counting the cost before committing yourself. He shows that one who commits themself and later turns away (losing their distinctiveness as His disciple and becoming a part of the world) is of no value except to be cast out.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 13:

1. What will happen to those who fail to repent ? (give references to support your answer).
2. What did the owner want to do with his fig tree and why?
3. What did the gardener suggest?
4. Who did Jesus heal on the Sabbath?
5. How did Jesus publicly humiliate his opponents?
6. What two items in nature did Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to? What happened to each item?
7. What will happen to those on the outside when the owner closes the door?
8. What will be the final result of those who are first and last?
9. What was Jesus going to do until he reached His goal?
10. What was Jerusalem not willing to do?

BONUS:

1. What truth does Jesus teach about those who suffer?
2. What will happen to those who fail to produce fruit or fail to enter the Kingdom while they have the opportunity? (support your answer with Scripture)
3. What is the meaning of the parable of the Mustard Seed and meaning of the parable of the Yeast?

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 14:

1. What question did Jesus ask at the Pharisees house and how did those there respond?
2. After Jesus healed the man; how did he explain His action?
3. What was Jesus instructions on finding a place to sit, after observing the guests and their conduct?
4. Who did Jesus suggest to the host to invite to his banquets and why?
5. What excuses were given for not attending the banquet?
6. How did the owner of the house respond ?
7. Who did the master say would get a taste of his banquet?
8. Who did Jesus say His disciples must hate and what must they carry?
9. What happens to the man who runs out of funds while building?
10. What happens to salt that loses its' saltiness?

BONUS:

1. How can humility in a congregation help it to run smoother and more effective in doing the Lords' work?
2. Explain the Parable of the Great banquet and how it applies to people today.
3. What is the point that Jesus is trying to make in verses 25-35 and why would He feel a need to make it at that time?