

Luke 14:1-14

“Reflecting Christ”

August 28, 2016

Our text gives us a reflection of our God. Our text is mirror into God’s soul. God’s church can burden us down with rules and regulations to follow like the Pharisees of Jesus time. They often define them as traditions to follow or the politically correct thing to do. These traditions can become so burdensome that they leave us wondering if we will make it to heaven. In our text the traditions led to the Pharisees being ready to condemn Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. They had defined their Sabbath traditions to the point that any work was condemned on the Sabbath even the healing of a man who was sick. Jesus defied their traditions and healed the sick man. The heart of God’s soul is to heal us.

God gives us the Law because following the Law is keeps us committed to our God and helps us to avoid hurting others. God calls this love “sacrificial love.” We deny ourselves and follow Him. For example we are to forgive as God has forgiven us. In our world we have those who refuse to forgive and go to war against each other’s family for generations. The war between the Hatfield’s and the McCoy’s is an example. The 100 year war between France and England is another example. Revenging a wrong is another example of those who refuse to forgive. God’s Law has a purpose and that is to make life easier for us all in this life and

open the doors to heaven in the next life. The heart of God's soul is to heal the hurt between us.

Our God does not seek revenge. If we reject Him, then He will reject us. God could even punish those who reject Him, but it is a lesson to those who would follow in their footsteps. In His love, He is saying to them, "Don't take this path, it ends badly for you and those who follow you." Rather God is always ready to give His forgiveness and His undeserved grace and mercy to those who follow Him. God is always ready to heal the hurting as Christ did in our text. God is always willing to no longer even see the sin that we committed when we come to Him with a repentant spirit. Yes, the heart of God's soul is His undeserved grace and mercy.

In our text Jesus teaches about the humble spirit. Pride and arrogance are products of the soul whose focus is upon them self. They are concerned about getting the best places and the best food. They want more recognition than others. Jesus gave up the glory due Him to become one of us and then humbled His Self to give His life for us. If everyone is struggling to be first on a team, then the team will lose because they are not working together. Likewise if everyone in the Body of Christ is struggling to be first on the team or gain a better place than someone else then we are not pulling together to give the glory to our God the Creator. The heart of God's soul is that we humbly unite together under His leadership.

In our text we see the love of our God displayed as He encourages us to invite the poor, the crippled and the blind to eat with us. God encourages us to show the same love that He shows. He invites everyone to come to the heavenly banquet and He expects nothing in return. God loves us all and no one should consider themselves unworthy to go to heaven because while in the eyes of the world we may be unworthy, in the eyes of God we are His creation. The heart of God's soul is to see us as His Creation.

We go back to last week's sermon. We are living in a world where there are holes in the heart of many because they do not consider themselves loved. The world puts us down because of the color of our skin, the job we hold or the education we possess. The world puts down because we are not blessed as they are blessed. This leaves a hole in our hearts where love should be. This leaves us feeling inferior to the rest of the world. Our God fills that hole by reminding us that we are His creation and He wants to spend eternity with us. Our God fills that hole by reminding us that no matter how many mistakes we make in life, He loves us unconditionally. Our God fills that hole by reminding us that He will not take revenge upon the humble and repentant soul. The heart of God's soul is to fill our hearts with His love. Amen.