

I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 24:7

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost +

This morning the Gospel records many different actions and many different teachings for us to ponder. First, he is at the house of a Pharisee. Aren't these the ones that rejected Jesus and eventually wanted him dead? Why would Jesus go to that house and to dine with those men? Jesus has come to the people who reject him so that he can be present to those who do not yet know him and love him.

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Second, we are again made witnesses to the Glory of God's Healing. A man is suffering with dropsy which is a swelling and discomfort from an excess of fluid in the extremities. We call this edema today. Edema is caused by poor circulation usually it is a symptom of congestive heart failure. The man's heart was not able to work well enough for him to live a full and rich life.

The Man's heart was not working well enough for him to live a full and rich life. And so Jesus healed him.

Finally, we hear the instructions concerning being too proud of ourselves. The parable of the wedding feast is to instruct us of what happens to those who trust in their own importance, rather than honoring God from whom all good things come.

What happens to those who trust in themselves rather than giving Glory to God from whom all good things come. The Pharisee's trusted in their own righteousness based on the Law.

Are these three events connected and what can we learn from this Gospel that applies to our lives and our relationship with God?

The first lesson is about the nature of the Law itself. What is the Law and how are we to follow the law and be guided by it? I know you can't drive in the diamond lanes without a MINPASS. That's not what I am talking about.

What Jesus is teaching today is that “The Law” Love God and Love your Neighbor is the basis for all law. If the human law is not in accord with the Divine Law then we may be required to ignore the human law in favor of the Divine Law.

The Pharisees are those who have added to the divine law a multiplicity of manmade laws. Some of them do correspond to the Divine Law and the Natural Law of the Created Order. Jesus has come into their presence to instruct them of the nature of God’s Ordering and the reality of their artificial construction. They see the world in a narrow fixed way.

God in his Love is expansive and embraces all that he has created. God reaches out to those who know Him and those who do not. Those who have come to know, and love God become His Children. Others in their blindness reject God and seek other gods and other spiritualities. God’s Children are loved into His Kingdom; those who reject Him follow their own path.

Jesus uses His presence with the Pharisees to teach us of the nature of God’s Love for all that he has created and the nature of the Sabbath.

The nature of the Sabbath is to give time for those God created to rest from their labor and to offer praise and thanksgiving to God. Jesus is God! How can God more clearly honor Himself than by doing what only God can do, Create and Recreate. Jesus is offering to those who are confused as to who is and why he came, clear evidence. His actions witness to all that He is God as He heals the lame and makes his heart whole. The man will go on and live a full and complete life.

Finally, as if to drive home to us the lesson of the relationship between God and what He has created, Jesus teaches us another lesson about humility and Holy Fear. The symbolism of the Wedding Banquet should not be lost to us. The Wedding Banquet of the Lamb is clearly what we are to understand. On the last day, the final judgment is to occur. Scripture reveals to us the nature of the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb.

Those who know Him and have followed in His ways will be presented to Him as a bride to the bridegroom. The great witness of the Revelation to St. John allows us to see this event. Those with seats of honor may not be those who have seats of honor in this place and time. We do not earn our place through position, wealth or glory in this place and time.

The Seats of Honor will go to those whose hearts have truly been transformed by the Love of God.

Those who have become like little children open, trusting and struggling to grow and become what they were created to be will attend the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb.

Jesus came into the world to heal all of our hearts. To make our hearts the tabernacles of the Holy Spirit they were created to be. That He might live in us and we in Him.

Amen