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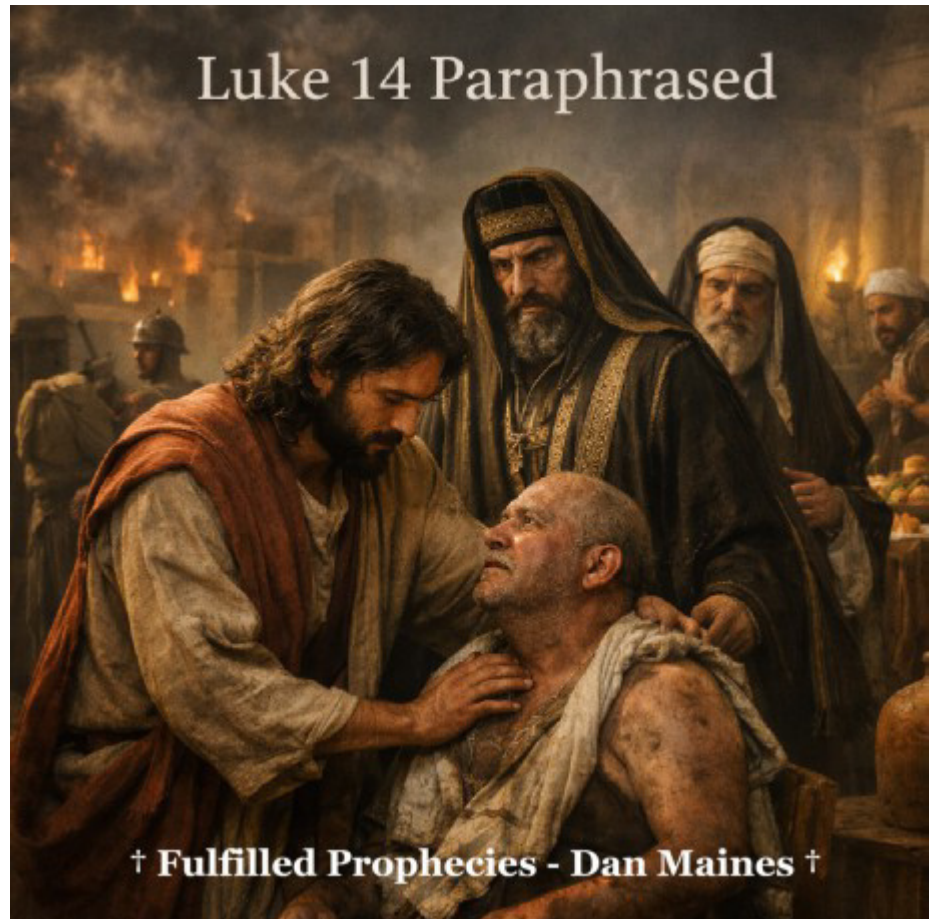
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Luke 14 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Luke 14 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus is exposing pride, hypocrisy, and the false security of religious status in Israel.

† He shows that the kingdom was being opened to those once considered unworthy, while those invited first were rejecting Him.

† This all points to the coming judgment on that generation and the gathering of a new covenant people.

Luke 14:1

One Sabbath He went to eat at the house of a leading Pharisee, and they were watching Him closely.

† The leaders were not seeking truth, they were looking for a reason to accuse Him.

† This shows hardened hearts within Israel's leadership (Luke 11:53-54).

Luke 14:2

A man suffering from swelling was there in front of Him.

† The need for healing was obvious, but compassion was being tested against their traditions.

† The Law was being misused to block mercy (Hosea 6:6).

Luke 14:3

Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?

† He forces them to confront their own inconsistency.

† Their silence reveals their guilt and hypocrisy.

Luke 14:4

They kept silent, and He took hold of the man, healed him, and sent him away.

† Jesus acts with authority, showing the Sabbath was made for good.

† God's mercy overrides their man-made restrictions.

Luke 14:5

He said to them, which one of you will not immediately pull out his son or ox if it falls into a well on the Sabbath day?

† They already made exceptions for themselves.

† Jesus exposes their selective obedience.

Luke 14:6

They could make no reply to this.

† Truth silenced them, yet they still refused to repent.

† This shows willful blindness.

Luke 14:7

He began speaking a parable to those invited when He noticed how they were choosing places of honor.

† Pride was openly displayed even in religious settings.

† Status mattered more to them than humility.

Luke 14:8

When you are invited to a wedding feast, do not sit in the place of honor, or someone more distinguished may be invited.

† Jesus warns against self-exaltation.

† Honor in God's kingdom does not come through self-promotion.

Luke 14:9

The host may come and say, give your place to this man, and then you will be humiliated.

† Pride leads to shame.

† Their system was built on outward recognition.

Luke 14:10

Instead, take the lowest place so that the host may say, move up higher.

† True honor comes from God, not man.

† Humility is the path to exaltation (James 4:10).

Luke 14:11

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

† This is a kingdom principle.

† Israel's leaders were about to be humbled in judgment.

Luke 14:12

He said to the one who invited Him, do not invite friends or rich neighbors expecting repayment.

† Their giving was transactional.

† They sought return, not righteousness.

Luke 14:13

Invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind.

† This reflects God's grace toward the outcast.

† The kingdom includes those society rejects.

Luke 14:14

You will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

† True reward comes from God.

† This points to covenant fulfillment and vindication.

Luke 14:15

One of those reclining said, blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God.

† He speaks confidently, assuming inclusion.

† Jesus corrects this assumption next.

Luke 14:16

A man gave a big dinner and invited many.

† The invitation represents Israel being called first.

† God extended covenant blessings to them.

Luke 14:17

He sent his slave to say, come, everything is ready.

† The time of fulfillment had arrived in Christ.

† The call was urgent and present.

Luke 14:18

They all began making excuses.

† Israel rejected the invitation through unbelief.

† Their priorities were earthly, not spiritual.

Luke 14:19

Another said he had oxen to examine.

† Material concerns replaced obedience.

† They valued possessions over the kingdom.

Luke 14:20

Another said he had married a wife and could not come.

† Personal life became an excuse.

† They refused the call of God.

Luke 14:21

The master became angry and said bring in the poor and crippled.

† The invitation shifts outward.

† This includes the remnant and the nations.

Luke 14:22

There is still room.

† God's grace is abundant.

† The kingdom was expanding beyond Israel.

Luke 14:23

Go out to the highways and compel them to come in.

† This shows the inclusion of Gentiles.

† The house will be filled despite rejection.

Luke 14:24

None of those who were invited shall taste my dinner.

† Judgment falls on those who rejected Christ.

† This was fulfilled in AD 70.

Luke 14:25

Large crowds were going along with Him, and He turned and spoke.

† Many followed, but few understood the cost.

† Jesus begins to define true discipleship.

Luke 14:26

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his family, he cannot be My disciple.

† This means loyalty to Christ above all.

† Covenant allegiance must come first.

Luke 14:27

Whoever does not carry his own cross cannot be My disciple.

† This points to suffering and sacrifice.

† Following Christ meant persecution in that generation.

Luke 14:28

Which of you does not calculate the cost before building?

† Discipleship requires commitment.

† This was not a casual decision.

Luke 14:29

Otherwise others will mock him.

† Failure to endure leads to shame.

† Many in Israel started but did not continue.

Luke 14:30

This man began to build and was not able to finish.

† Incomplete faith reveals a false start.

† True disciples endure to the end.

Luke 14:31

A king considers whether he can win before going to war.

† Wisdom evaluates reality before action.

† Jesus calls for serious consideration.

Luke 14:32

Otherwise he seeks terms of peace.

† There is a cost to rejecting Christ.

† Israel failed to seek peace with God.

Luke 14:33

None of you can be My disciple unless he gives up everything.

† Total surrender is required.

† This exposes shallow followers.

Luke 14:34

Salt is good, but if it loses its taste, it is useless.

† Israel was meant to preserve truth.

† They lost their purpose through corruption.

Luke 14:35

It is thrown out. He who has ears, let him hear.

† Judgment and removal were coming.

† Only those who listened would understand.

Historical References

† Josephus records the rejection of truth and the destruction of Jerusalem, showing fulfillment of judgment.

† Eusebius confirms the early church understood these warnings as fulfilled in the first century.

† Irenaeus speaks of the transition from old covenant Israel to the new covenant people.

How it applies to us today

† We must reject pride and walk in humility before God.

† We are called to value people over status and possessions.

† True discipleship still requires surrender and commitment.

† God's kingdom includes those who respond, not those who assume they belong.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Who were the first invited guests?

A: Israel under the old covenant, who rejected Christ (Matthew 21:43).

Q: Who are the poor and outcasts invited?

A: The remnant and Gentiles brought into the kingdom (Ephesians 2:12-13).

Q: What does counting the cost mean?

A: Fully committing to Christ despite hardship (Luke 9:23).

Q: What does losing saltiness represent?

A: Losing covenant purpose and facing judgment (Matthew 5:13).

Q: When was this judgment fulfilled?

A: In the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Luke 14

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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