

Lutheran Confessions

41] For few receive the Word and follow it; the greatest number despise the Word, and will not come to the wedding. Matt. 22, 3ff The cause for this contempt for the Word is not God's foreknowledge [or predestination], but the perverse will of man, which rejects or perverts the means and instrument of the Holy Ghost, which God offers him through the call, and resists the Holy Ghost, who wishes to be efficacious, and works through the Word, as Christ says: *How often would I have gathered you together, and ye would not!* Matt. 23, 37. (FC SD XI. Election, 41)

But the Church is not only the fellowship of outward objects and rites, as other governments, but it is originally a fellowship of faith and of the Holy Ghost in hearts. ...which fellowship nevertheless has outward marks so that it can be recognized, namely, the pure doctrine of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments in accordance with the Gospel of Christ. [**Namely, where God's Word is pure, and the Sacraments are administered in conformity with the same, there certainly is the Church, and there are Christians.**] ... (Apology, Church VII and VIII)

68] Some clever men imagine that the Lord's Supper was instituted for two reasons. First, that it might be a mark and testimony of profession, just as a particular shape of hood is the sign of a particular profession. Then they think that such a mark was especially pleasing to Christ, namely, a feast to signify mutual union and friendship among Christians, because **banquets are signs of covenant and friendship.** But this is a secular view; neither does it show the chief use of the things delivered by God; it speaks only of the exercise of love, which men, however profane and worldly, understand; it does not speak of faith, the nature of which few understand.

69] **The Sacraments are signs of God's will toward us, and not merely signs of men among each other;** and they are right in defining that Sacraments in the New Testament are signs of grace. And because in a sacrament there are two things, a sign and the Word, the Word, in the New Testament, is the promise of grace added. The promise of the New Testament is the promise of the remission of sins, as the text, Luke 22, 19, says: *This is My body, which is given for you. This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* **70]** Therefore the Word offers the remission of sins. And a ceremony is, as it were, a picture or seal, as Paul, Rom. 4, 11, calls it, of the Word, making known the promise. Therefore, just as the promise is useless unless it is received by faith, so a ceremony is useless unless such faith is added as is truly confident that the remission of sins is here offered. And this faith encourages contrite minds. **And just as the Word has been given in order to excite this faith, so the Sacrament has been instituted in order that the outward appearance meeting the eyes might move the heart to believe [and strengthen faith]. For through these, namely, through Word and Sacrament, the Holy Ghost works.** (The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, XXIV)

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom You bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** (*Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity*)

Word of God: St. Luke 14:15-24 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

- Before you can understand the feast imagery, you need to be aware of some of the Old Testament passages which speak of God's Table Fellowship in which God is present, he teaches/reveals about the kingdom, and he shares a meal with man.
 - Genesis 2:9, 16-17 Adam and Eve and the tree of life.
 - Genesis 18 God eats with Abraham and gives him the Promise.
 - Exodus 12 The Feast of the Passover, which celebrated God deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt.
 - Exodus 24 Moses and others ate and drank with God on Mt. Sinai
 - Leviticus 1-7 sacrificial meals
 - Isaiah 25:6 the Messianic Banquet (Rev 19:9)
- Jesus speaks this parable at what occasion? (Lk 14:1-14)
- Who makes this statement about the future Messianic banquet?
- When someone speaks about the blessedness of those at the Messianic banquet(v.15), to what does Jesus' parable directs the discussion?
- Who prepares the banquet? (v.16)
- Who actually delivers the invitations that all is ready? (v.17)
- How did those invited ones respond? (v.18-20)
- In the Old Testament, who had been given special invitations? Mt 15:21, Acts 13:46-48, Romans 9:4-5, 10:19-21, 11:11
- Is the master pleased with their excuses?
- To whom within the city does the master direct his servant to seek feasters?
- When there is still room, the master directs the servant to even go outside the city's gate. What does that teach us?
- To whom is the warning in verse 24 given?
- What did this "one at table with Jesus" not understand? (v.15)
- Looking at Luke 15:1-2, what does sharing a meal indicate?
- Comment on how the liturgy combines the Service of the Word and Service of Holy Communion?
- How do we see these three elements of Table Fellowship continue in the celebration of Lord's Supper? (Luke 22:17-30)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #212, st. 1

1st Commandment & meaning, p. 300

1 Corinthians 11:26

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses

"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise

"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia." p.225

Reading

St. Luke 14:15-24 (back)

Hymn

"We All Believe in One True God, Father" #212

Catechesis on...

St. Luke 14:15-24 (back)

Liturgy

Catechism

--prayer based on reading

+ Recite Word by Word insert

Ten Commandments

Lord's Prayer

Apostles' Creed

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:16

Confession & Absolution

John 20:22-23

Sacrament of the Altar

Words of Institution

Collect of the Day

--prayer based on reading

R. AMEN

Benediction

R. AMEN

Catechesis on St. Luke 14:15-24

15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” 16 Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 “and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ 18 “But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ 19 “And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ 20 “Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 “So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ 22 “And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ 23 “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 ‘For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ” (NKJV)

Why Few People Receive the Gospel

“However, that many are called and few chosen, Matt. 22, 14, does not mean that God is not willing to save everybody; but the reason is that **they either do not at all hear God’s Word, but wilfully despise it, stop their ears and harden their hearts,** and in this manner foreclose the ordinary way to the Holy Ghost, so that He cannot perform His work in them, or, when they have heard it, make light of it again and do not heed it, for which [that they perish] not God or His election, but their wickedness, is responsible. [2 Pet. 2, 1ff ; Luke 11, 49. 52; Heb. 12, 25f.] (FC SD XI 12)

Proclamation of the Gospel

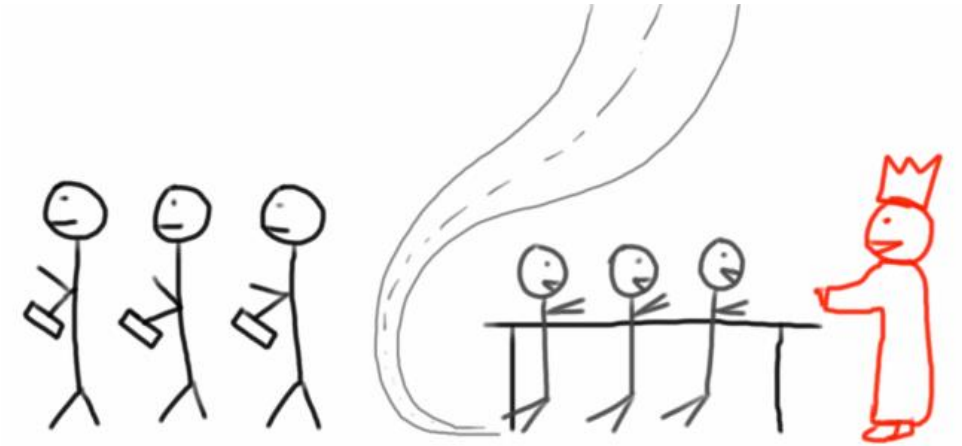
52] Now, **all who wish to be saved ought to hear this preaching [of God’s Word].** For the preaching and hearing of God’s Word are instruments of the Holy Ghost, by, with, and through which He desires to work efficaciously, and to convert men to God, and to work in them both to will and to do.

53] This Word man can externally hear and read, even though he is not yet converted to God and regenerate; for in these external things, as said above, man even since the Fall has to a certain extent a free will, so that he can go to church and hear or not hear the sermon.

54] **Through this means, namely, the preaching and hearing of His Word, God works,** and breaks our hearts, and draws man, so that through the preaching of the Law he comes to know his sins and God’s wrath, and experiences in his heart true terrors, contrition, and sorrow, and through the preaching and consideration of the holy Gospel concerning the gracious forgiveness of sins in Christ a spark of faith is kindled in him, which accepts the forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake, and comforts itself with the promise of the Gospel, and thus the Holy Ghost (who works all this) is sent into the heart, Gal. 4, 6.

55] Now, although both, the planting and watering of the preacher, and the running and willing of the hearer, would be in vain, and no conversion would follow it if the power and efficacy of the Holy Ghost were not added thereto, who enlightens and converts the hearts through the Word preached and heard, so that men believe this Word and assent thereto, still, **neither preacher nor hearer is to doubt this grace and efficacy of the Holy Ghost, but should be certain that when the Word of God is preached purely and truly, according to the command and will of God, and men listen attentively and earnestly and meditate upon it, God is certainly present with His grace, and grants, as has been said, what otherwise man can neither accept nor give from his own powers.** (FC SD II 52-55).

Catechesis On St. Luke 14:15-24



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The First Commandment

The Law and the Gospel

--“We believe, teach, and confess that, strictly speaking, **the Law is a divine doctrine which teaches what is right and God-pleasing and which condemns everything that is sinful and contrary to God’s will.** Therefore everything which condemns sin is and belongs to the proclamation of the law.

--But **the Gospel**, strictly speaking, is the kind of doctrine **that teaches what a man** who has not kept the law and is condemned by it **should believe, namely, that Christ has satisfied and paid for all guilt and without man’s merit has obtained and won for him forgiveness of sins, the ‘righteousness that avails before God,’ and eternal life”** (FC, Ep, V).

The Purpose of the Law (after the Fall)

--“For **the law always accuses**(*lex semper accusat*) **and terrifies consciences.** It does not justify, because a conscience terrified by the law flees before God’s judgment” (Ap, IV, 38)

--“Therefore, the Ten Commandments do not by themselves make us Christians, for God’s wrath and displeasure still remain on us because **we cannot fulfill his demands.**” (LC, II, 68)

--Romans 3:20 “...for by the law is the **knowledge of sin.**”

--Acts 20:21 “...testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance toward God** and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

--“Hence, because of the desires of the flesh the truly believing, **elect, and reborn children of God** require in this life not only the daily teaching and admonition, warning and threatening of the law, but frequently the punishment of the law as well, to egg them on so that they follow the Spirit of God, as it is written, ‘It is good for me that I was afflicted that I might learn thy statutes’ (Ps. 119:71)” (FC SD VI 9).

The One True God

The one true God is **the Triune God:** The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. John 5:23, “All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.” John 8:19b, “Jesus answered, ‘You know neither Me

nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

The Command: Trust in God

--“We should **fear, love, and trust** in God above all things.” “A god is that to which we look for all good and in which we find refuge in every time of need. To have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe him with our whole heart. As I have often said, **the trust and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol....** In other words: ‘Whatever good thing you lack, look to me for it and seek it from me, and whenever you suffer misfortune and distress, come and cling to me. I am the one who will satisfy you and help you out of every need. Only let **your heart** cling to no one else” (LC, I, 2-4).

Trust or Faith

--Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And **lean not on your own understanding.**” Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of **things hoped for,** the evidence of **things not seen.**”

--James 2:18b-19 “...I will show you my faith **by my works.**”

--Hebrews 11:6 “But **without faith it is impossible to please Him,** for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

“We should fear and love God so that...”

--Matthew 22:37 “Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

--Romans 13:10b “...**Love** is the fulfillment of the law.”

--Psalm 33:8 “Let all the earth **fear** the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe** of Him.”

--Proverbs 8:13 “The **fear** of the Lord is **to hate evil.**”

--Matthew 10:28 “And do not **fear** those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. **But rather fear Him** who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

The Prohibition: “You shall have no other gods.”

--2 Corinthians 6:14-15 “**Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”

--1 Corinthians 10:14 “Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**”

--Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord, that is My name; **And My glory I will not give to another,** Nor My praise to carved images.