

The Gospel according to Luke: Worldly Ambition and the Cross of Christ
Luke 14:1-35

Three Evidences of Worldly Ambition (vv. 1-14)

- An indifference to suffering around us. (vv. 1-6)
- An obsession with others' opinion of us. (vv. 7-11)

Humility may well be called the queen of the Christian graces. It is a grace which has always been the distinguishing feature in the character of every true Christian. All do not have money to give away. All do not have gifts of speech or tact or knowledge in order to do great good in this world. But all converted people should labor to adorn the doctrine they profess by humility. If they can do nothing else, they can strive to be humble. (J.C. Ryle)

- An acceptance of sinful systems among us. (vv. 12-14)

Two Errors of Worldly Ambition (vv. 15-24)

- There is a worldly preoccupation...(vv. 16-23)
- That results in an eternal punishment. (vv. 15, 24)

The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, and a wife (Luke 14:18-20). The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable. (John Piper)

The One End to Worldly Ambition (vv. 25-35)

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. (John 12:42-43)

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)