

Social Categories in the Gospel According to St. Luke: Exponents of the Jewish Society from the Time of the Savior

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Abstract

Throughout the gospel, St. Luke is keeping a clear line between the people and its religious leaders: pharisees, sadducee, scribes, jewish priests, levites etc. Among those, we also see differences concerning their acceptance of the Word. The study underlines St. Luke's view on pharisees and their role, as having certain particularities compared to the other synoptics. For example, no other Gospel portrays Jesus as having lunch with the pharisees, while St. Luke is writing about three such occasions. On the other hand it is true that in each of those contexts, there is a conflict rising between pharisees and Jesus. The social context of the first Christian century in Jerusalem is characterized by a strong social division on the account of one's affiliation to a certain group. This has a strong impact on the human relation dynamics, leading to segregation in the cultic life. The gap between common people and religious leaders reaches a critical point, incompatible with God's will. Our Saviour condemns this situation and sends a reconciliation message of love and kindness among people, as solid ground for a natural relation with God.