

Sunday, 14 SEP 08

Luke 14.1-11: Some important grammatical/syntactical points to learn or review.

### **Articular infinitive.**

- The infinitive is a verbal noun. E.g., in English, “to go”. It can function like any other noun. In Greek the infinitive may take the article in any of four cases (in the singular only): nominative, genitive, dative, accusative. Its gender is always neuter.
- English has another verbal noun, the gerund, which ends in –ing. Sometimes to prevent awkwardness it is useful to translate an articular infinitive in Greek as a gerund in English. E.g., “to go” becomes “going”.
- In Luke 14.1 we see an instance of the articular infinitive: ἐν τῷ ἐλθεῖν αὐτὸν εἰς οἶκόν τινος: literally “in him going to the house of a certain one...”
  - Note that as Latin lacks an articular infinitive Jerome translated this phrase into Latin with a circumstantial (when) clause: *cum intraret in domum*.
  - Of course, also in English to avoid awkwardness, the Greek phrase is best translated with something like: “as he went into the house of a certain...”
- Please see Mounce, “Basics...” 32.15 (pp. 304-306)

### The aorist passive (aspect/voice)

- The aorist passive form came into Greek late, ca. 800-700 BC. It gained in popularity over the centuries, and Koine Greek displays a number of aorist passive forms that do not exist in classical Greek. One verb in particular in our passage is typical of this development: ἀποκριθεῖς (3), ἀνταποκριθῆναι (6). In classical Greek this verb is a middle voice deponent, never an aorist passive, as in Koine. Other examples are κληθῆς (8) and κατακληθῆς (8).
- The aorist passive is formed by adding θε/θη to the root, with appropriate endings. You may form aorist passives in all the moods, the infinitive, and as a participle.
  - Only in the indicative mood does the aorist passive display tense (past). Otherwise it shows simplicity or singleness of action and is **tenseless**.
- For some aorist passive deponents you must translate them as if they were active: ἀποκριθεῖς becomes “answering”; ἀνταποκριθῆναι becomes “to respond”. Other times you may use the passive voice in English: κληθῆς becomes “called”.

- Please see Mounce, "Basics..." ch. 24 (212-223)

The future passive was another (even later development) in Classical Greek. Of course, it is there in Koine.

- The future passive uses the aorist passive stem (!) followed by the future formant (σ) and primary medio-passive endings. Examples: (11) ταπεινωθήσεται... ὑψωθήσεται: "shall be humbled" ... "shall be exalted".
- Please see Mounce, "Basics..." ch. 24 (212-223)