



Sermon Discussion Questions

Luke 14:1-14; Matt 25:31-46

Series: Make a Difference, Pt. 1 of 2 Discussions

Introduce It:

Tell the group about a dinner party, a wedding reception, or a banquet that you have gone to or that you have thrown that was really, really fun. Why was it fun? Who was there and why were they invited?

Study It:

Read Luke 14:1-14

Jesus is at the home of a prominent Pharisee (Jewish Religious leaders) and he has 3 discussions in these 14 verses. Who does he talk to in each situation?

Let's look at each discussion. He ask the Pharisees two questions of which none of them answered either question but just sat quiet. If you were at this dinner, how would you have answered these questions? Why do you believe they were quiet?

In college, a homeless man asked me for some money to be able to go buy food. I knew that there was a 95% chance that if I gave him money he would use it to go buy liquor and not food. I also knew that he was very capable physically to get a job. But I had the tension as well that maybe he really does need food. What should I do? How would you handle that situation? What are you most afraid of happening if you give this person money and why would that be a bad thing?

Verses 7-11, what does Jesus notice about the crowd that has been invited to the dinner?

What is the counsel that Jesus gives the crowd? Ever been in a situation where you watched someone exalt themselves only to be humbled or humbled themselves only to be exalted? Share this story with the group.

Verses 12-14 Jesus now singles out the host of the party. What does he reveal about the host of the party?

These words by Jesus seem pretty harsh but you have to keep in mind they are singled out about this prominent Pharisee. Sometimes words in the Bible apply to all of us and sometimes they are meant for the individuals he is speaking directly to. When I have dinner parties, I want my friends to come over because I love hanging out with them. But, what is the warning each of us can take away from this singling out of the Pharisee?

Imagine what it would look like for you as an individual or as a group to throw a party for those that are blind, crippled, poor, and lame. What would it cost you? What do you think it would do for them?

As a group, make an invitation list of people you would want to invite to this party. Make sure you understand that blind, crippled, poor and lame are not just physical impairments. They are also spiritual and emotional impairments. Craft an invitation list. Which of them do you think would actually come and why?

(continued)

Now, read Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus is spending the majority of this chapter talking to his disciples about the end of times. Therefore what we have just read is an extremely important point to keep in mind. Summarize as a group what he is describing for his disciples.

These are not words that are just singled out to an individual, as he did the prominent Pharisee. These are words to all disciples. Therefore, as a disciple of Jesus, what is your response to these words?

Use It:

To close, pray over each individual that the group put on the party list. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to invite them to dinner or lunch. This week, look for those opportunities.

Ask the Lord to give the group wisdom as to if having a party together and inviting each of these folks could work. Discuss as a group how over the next seven weeks this might be able to happen.