



Week 16: Jesus' Teaching at the Table and The Cost of Discipleship

Introduction:

Jesus continues His journey toward Jerusalem. In Chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, we encounter Jesus at a Pharisee's banquet and on the road. These sections of Scripture are filled with more teachings on:

1. How to live as a member of Christ's upside-down Kingdom
2. How Jesus extends His salvation to all people
3. The requirements of discipleship

Note: As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

Questions:

Read Luke 14:1-6

1. Remember, Jesus, still on His Journey to Jerusalem, is being carefully watched and followed. This party is no exception, considering it takes place at the house of a prominent Pharisee (religious leader). Rather than avoiding a potential trap, Jesus uses the occasion and attention to drive home an important lesson. What point is Jesus trying to make in healing the man and asking His questions afterwards?

Answer:

Read Luke 14:7-11

2. (Breakout) The Gospels have a few incidences of Jesus teaching greatness through humility. The disciples are frequently arguing over who is the greatest among them, and the religious leaders are exalting themselves above the rest of the people. Take a moment of honest reflection and examine ways in which you've exalted yourself. How can you humble yourself before others in repentance going forward?

Answer:

Read Luke 14:12-14

3. This is not the first time that Jesus gives a teaching like this. Remember Luke 6:

Luke 6:32-36

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Why would gifts and invitations to the crippled, lame, and blind be considered a waste in Jesus' time?

Answer:

4. The Lutheran Church has always preached and believed in being saved by grace through faith, and not by good works. It is through the work of Jesus alone that we are saved and the faith the Holy Spirit creates in us. How do we explain Luke 14:14, in which there clearly is a reward announced to those who do as Jesus says?

Answer:

Read Luke 14:15-24

5. (Breakout) At this point, we begin to see that this chapter has multiple meanings. As you reflect on this section, what could some of those meanings be? Whom do you think the characters in the parable represent? What meaning flows from your conclusion? How is that meaning different from what you thought it was before the parable?

Reflections:

Answer:

Read Luke 14:25-35

6. In the original language of these verses, hate is not an affective feeling toward something or someone, but rather a denial of primary allegiance. Being part of a family was valued incredibly highly back then, but would still need to come second to Jesus. Carrying a cross, before Jesus, was known only in the context of experiencing a brutal and shameful execution. Neither of these seem to be good arguments to recruit disciples. So why does Jesus use them?

Answer:

Closing Thought:

Christ has come not only to save the Jews, but also the gentiles. But being part of His Kingdom and accepting His way can be extremely difficult for some. Whether we foolishly reject the Gospel or stubbornly resist true discipleship, Jesus continues to bear with His people. Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it. May we be transformed by Christ's gracious invitation to life in His Kingdom — both now and forever.