



Sermon Notes: "Who's at Your Table?"

Luke 14:1-24

8.10.25

The Key Principle: Jesus cares more about service than status.

Kingdom Contrast:

Jesus has power to heal but chooses to use it humbly, compassionately.

Vs.

The Pharisees have social power but use it for exclusion and self-promotion.

Lessons from the "lowest seat":

- Pride makes us picky about who we'll reach (Luke 14:7-11)
- Humility makes us hospitable to everyone (Luke 14:12-14)
- When we respond like the humble servant, God's banquet gets filled! (Luke 14:21-24)

So What?

BLESS Framework:

- B - Begin with Prayer
- L - Listen with Care
- E - Eat Together (*This week*)
- S - Serve in Love
- S - Share Your Story

Who in our community gets overlooked for dinner invitations?

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

READ: Luke 14:1-24

2. In the sermon, Darin mentioned that pride creates a “double bind” -- we won't reach “down” to people we think are beneath us, and we won't reach “up” to people we think are above us. Can you think of examples of both in your own life? Who do you avoid because you think they're “too good” or “too bad” for the gospel?
3. In Luke 14:12-14, Jesus tells us to invite “the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” - people who can't repay us. Who in Wallowa County fits this description today? What holds us back from inviting them to our table?
4. In the parable (Luke 14:16-24), the original guests all had “good” excuses - business, new purchases, marriage. What are our modern “good” excuses for not making time for people who need Jesus? How do our busy lives become barriers to humble hospitality?
5. Jesus' principle is clear: *“Those who humble themselves will be exalted”* (Luke 14:11). Think about your current relationships and social circles. If you really applied Jesus' teaching about inviting people who can't repay you, who would you add to your table? What's one practical step you could take this week?

Specific Action Step:

This week: This week, invite ONE person from your prayer list for a meal -- coffee, lunch, dinner, or even just a simple snack. Choose someone who can't do anything for you socially, financially, or professionally. No agenda except to practice hospitality like Jesus. Your goal isn't to share the gospel -- it's to share a table.

Don't Forget:

- Aug 15th -- Church Yard Sale
- Aug 31st -- Church at the Lake
- September 7th: Life Groups and Sunday School Launching!!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
Forgive us for the times we've cared more about our status than serving others.
Help us see that in Your upside-down kingdom, the way up is down, the way to be great is to serve. Give us humble hearts that welcome people others overlook.
Show us who You want us to invite to our tables this week - not to change them, but to offer them space where change can take place. Make us like the humble servant, not the proud guests.
In Your name, Amen.