

SERMON-BASED STUDY: DINNER LESSONS

Luke 14:1-14, ESV – One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ² And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶ And they could not reply to these things.

⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we were reminded that Jesus desires heart transformation over behavior modification. How can we avoid the trap of focusing on behavior modification, at the detriment of heart transformation?
- 2 Why is humility so important when dealing with other people? Why is humility so difficult?
- 3 Ultimately, love is a choice. Why should we choose to love others regardless of their status and what they can do for us?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Psalm 139:23-24, ESV – ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

2 Corinthians 3:16-18, ESV – ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- 4 According to the passages above, where does heart transformation begin? What holds us back from opening up to God?
- 5 Have you had an experience in which the veil was lifted in your heart? Explain. How has it impacted the way you live your life?
- 6 How would you describe the freedom that Paul is referring to in 2 Corinthians 3:17? How is this freedom transformational?

B *1 John 4:7-12, 19-21, ESV – ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

7 Looking at the passage above, what is the biblical meaning of love? How is this different or similar to what we hear in our culture?

8 What happens to our efforts to love others if those efforts are not connected to Jesus' love for us?

9 What does it mean that God's love is "perfected in us"? Does this indicate that God's love is somehow imperfect? Why or why not?

TAKING IT HOME

Do you find yourself more loving or, more critical and judgmental of others right now? If the latter, how are you going to reconnect with the love of God in Christ this week? What are some practical ways you can make visible the love of God this week? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to be people who love others as Christ loves you.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 51:10

Matthew 5:43-48

John 13:34-35

Ephesians 4:2

Philippians 2:3-4

Hebrews 4:12

1 Peter 4:8