

the table



Week 4 | The Table | March

Key Focus: In Christ you are free to live a questionable life.

Opening Up:

- Are you better off with one good friend or a group of friends? Explain.
- What do you like to do with friends? Why is that activity important to you?
- Name someone you love. Then, tell the group a story about a time you had fun together.
- What are the challenges to talking about Jesus? What might you do to overcome those challenges?

Reference: Luke 14:1-24

Discuss:

1. Jesus lived a questionable life. If Christians lived more questionably, what kinds of questions would you want Christianity to raise? (1 Peter 3:15)
2. Religious people are self-justifiers. They are unable to contemplate the needs others because they are too busy thinking about how they themselves measure up. Sacrilegious lovers don't debate, they just love. Who needs love? What keeps Christians from loving?
3. One of the marks of the ministry of Jesus is humility. Humility is thinking of yourself less, not thinking less of yourself. What keeps our minds focused on us? How can we free our minds to be mindful of others?
4. Grace is another mark of the ministry of Jesus. Grace is agenda-less love. What are some agenda's that we sometimes place on our love? (Think about our love of family, friends, the poor, the broken, etc.)
5. Privileged and entitled people feel deserving. Why do you think this makes Jesus angry? (14:21) In what ways are Americans susceptible to feelings of privilege and entitlement?
6. How does the gospel confront our arrogant attitudes, yet at the same time empower us to love? (Think about the doctrines of justification and adoption.)
7. Mercy is pulling someone out of the river. Justice is dealing with why they are in the river in the first place. Mercy work is important, but why must mercy work be coupled with justice work? What would happen if we only did mercy work and never engaged in justice work? What makes justice work hard?
8. The entire critique of Jesus in Luke 14 over the seating arrangements, the guest list, and the entitlement attitude is a critique of the hospitality of the guests and the host. Why is hospitality so important to Jesus? How is hospitality important to justice work?
9. Pray.