

May 7/23 – Leader’s Guide - Luke 14:7-14 “Radical Hospitality”

Read Luke 14:7-14.

1. What were the two main points of Jesus’ teaching in this passage? What are two very strong cultural practices that Jesse pointed out we have, that this passage addresses?

When you are a guest, assume the lower place. When you are a host, invite those who can’t reciprocate. Our culture practices self-promotion and also operates on a reciprocal basis, where we try not to be indebted to people.

2. Do you agree with Jesse’s point about these cultural practices? Where have you seen them at work in your own life?

Be prepared with examples (from your life or in general) of the necessity to self-promote in our culture, as well as examples where you have or have not felt the need to essentially ‘pay back’ a gift so that you don’t feel indebted.

3. What is the alternative that Jesse suggested the church practice instead of self-promotion? How does this practice ‘radical hospitality’?

He suggested the church be a place where it is natural to ‘see’ people, including their gifts and abilities, and to raise them up before they have to practice self-promotion. Explore what this means in terms of welcoming people into the church, and practicing hospitality.

4. What is the alternative that Jesse suggested the church practice instead of reciprocity?

Jesse suggested that we practice “gift economy” or “grace-based economy”; a form of hospitality that invites the stranger in, not knowing what we might get out of it. It operates from a place of abundance rather than scarcity.

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

5. How did he connect both of these points with Philippians 2:9-11?

Jesus took the lowest place, and God raised him up. He also gave up everything, taking on the ultimate risk of death for us, with no guarantees or demands that we would appreciate this sacrifice for us.

6. Jesse called the church the last standing institution that is able to engage risk on a different level than the world, who can risk being taken advantage of because that’s what God has modeled for us. Do you agree or disagree?

Do you think this is practical? Have you seen it modeled, and if so, what were the results?

Being truly hospitable (being open to a stranger) is inherently risky. Explore with the group whether this might be what the gospel is calling us to, and the benefits and costs of taking such risks.