

July 21/24 - Small Group Questions

Luke 14:1, 12-24 "Generosity Flowing from the Father's Heart"

Jesus is at the home of a prominent Pharisee. It is there that we are invited into the world of patronage. You see, if you wanted to increase your standing in the community or grow your business you needed to be in relationship with wealthy patrons. A patron was one who perhaps could grant you a loan, or open the door for your goods to be sold at market, or grease political wheels and so on. The way you secured and grew your network was through these feasts. As you showered food, drink, and entertainment upon your guests you would secure your power over them, put them in your debt, giving you the opportunity to call in favors whenever you needed them. At such a feast Jesus rises and addresses the host:

Read Luke 14: 1, 12-24

1. (12-13) What is the force of the semitic idiom here? What application does it have for the patronage system?
2. (14) What two blessings are associated with this posture? What does each look like?
3. (15) What presumption do you see behind the guest's declaration?
4. (16-24) What do we learn about the character of God (Lord of the Banquet) from this parable?
5. (18-20) What do the excuses reveal about the human heart?
6. What decision are we being invited to make in light of the parable?
7. How is the Spirit inviting you to live in light of this passage?