

WEEK 37:

LOVING PEOPLE NOT NAMED YOU

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 14:1-14

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Proverbs 8:13, 16:18-19 and 29:23, Isaiah 14:12-14, 66:1-2,
Matthew 23:5-12, Mark 8:34, Luke 6:27-36,
Galatians 5:13-14, Philippians 2:1-13, James 4:6

"Our worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."

- Jerry Bridges

"Do not desire to be the principal man in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best man in the church is the man who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as God is glorified."

- C.H. Spurgeon

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 14:1-6. You can almost feel the tension between Jesus and his hosts. How does Jesus respond to the tension? Why does he respond the way he does? What kind of social interactions make you tense and how do you normally respond?

Read Luke 14:7-11. How important is it to you that people treat you with proper respect and honor? When do you feel entitled to "places of honor"? When do you feel slighted if someone else is honored instead of you?

In v. 7, Luke says Jesus is teaching a parable -- a hypothetical story with the intent of teaching deeper spiritual meaning. What do you think the banquet in Jesus' parable represents? (Check with a commentary or a study bible if you're stuck.)

Read Luke 14:8-11 and Philippians 2:1-11. How does Jesus himself demonstrate the humility he commands? What examples can you find in scripture? How does Jesus lowering Himself to serve us confront the motives we have for trying to exalt ourselves?

Read Luke 14:12-14, Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What specific people are most difficult for you love and share your life with (consider coworkers, neighbors, friends, church or family members)? What makes it hard? What areas of spiritual weakness is Jesus trying to grow by leading you to love people that are different than you?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Read Luke 14:1-14. According to v. 1, what is the context for Jesus’ healing and teaching in this passage?



Discuss the spiritual reality Jesus explains with His parable in v. 7-11. What does Jesus mean by “everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”? What is He exposing about the Pharisees’ (and our) natural approach to life?

In John 15:15 Jesus calls His disciples “friends”. In other words, the banquet master gives sinners like us the highest honor possible. How does this gospel truth empower us to obey Jesus’ instructions in v. 12-14 even when that obedience comes with social, financial or emotional cost?



Reread Luke 14:13. Jesus instructs us to invite in “the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” -- those who are usually excluded and cannot repay the kindness. Who might that mean for us? What sinful resistance will we have to repent from as we obey Jesus in this way?

Prayer: As a group confess areas of seeking honor, comfort, etc. Pray the Holy Spirit would empower you to love those around you in a selfless way.

