

I. Intro

A. Last week – Resurrection Day

1. Invitation to consider “what are you focused on?”
2. When staring into an empty grave:
 - a) Are you beholding resurrection power
 - b) Are you focused on a peripheral issue with no eternal consequence?

B. Luke carries this theme into chapter 14

1. The setting is a dinner party – sabbath meal
 - a) Focus should be God – His faithfulness, rest in Him
 - b) Focus was on the guests
 - (1) Who was invited? Who showed up? Where did you sit?
2. Gathering was meant to focus on God – instead, focused on men
 - a) Jesus exposes this through one miracle and 3 parables
 - b) Our goal: let the miracle and parables sink into our hearts today
3. Are we guilty of treating our life like this dinner party?
 - a) Instead of focusing on God, we focus on ourselves OR each other

II. Text

A. Luke 14:1-6

1. Busy sabbath dinner party; complete with lawyers, Pharisees, and sick people
 - a) The sick man has edema – swelling of the limbs
 - b) Jesus asks “is it lawful to heal on the sabbath?”
 - (1) Question is connect to Luke 13:10-17
2. No answer – he heals the man and asks another question
 - a) If something you cared for was in distress on sabbath, would you help it?
 - b) Obvious answer is yes – *we help because we care*
 - c) How much more does God care about His image bearers in distress?!
3. This perspective comes right from the Book of Jonah
 - a) Summarize Story – read **Jonah 4:10-11**
 - b) *The point is clear – God wants to help because He cares – why don’t we care?*

B. Luke 14:7-11

1. Jesus is watching invited guests miss the point of the party
 - a) Goal – Celebrate God. Focus on God. Care about what God cares about.
 - b) Instead, it was about position, being seen, being praised
 - c) Resulted in the sick man being overlooked, nobody helped him
2. *When we want to be seen, celebrated, and praised....*
 - a) *We miss the people around us who need help*
 - b) *When we care too much about ourselves, we stop caring for others*
 - c) *If this goes on too long, we will be humbled*
3. *How do we get out of this routine? This "me" focused life?*

C. Luke 14:12-14

1. *Jesus teaches how to get out of this "me" focused life:*
 - a) *Send out different invitations!*
 - (1) *Stop surrounding yourself with people who owe you favors*
 - (2) *Stop doing life with people who are exactly like you*
 - (3) *Expand the gathering beyond family, friends, and those who are easy*
 - b) *You want to care about what God cares about?*
 - (1) *Find the people God cares about and bring them close*
 - (2) *Look for the broken, the far-off, the prodigals, the lost sheep*
 - (3) *Sit next to, get to know, dine with – those who are different*
2. *Living this way has its own blessing – here and in eternity*

D. Luke 14:15-24

1. Jesus spoke on blessing and a party guest responded
 - a) Everyone is going to be blessed in eternity!
 - b) Jesus replies, not everyone will be blessed in eternity...
2. Keeping with the dinner party and banquet theme, Jesus teaches a parable
 - a) A great banquet was set, invitations went out, but people decline
 - (1) Declined because of property and possessions
 - (2) Declined because of relationships and commitments

- b) The declined invites upset the host, so he expanded the invites
 - (1) Everyone was invited. Anyone who showed up was welcome.
 - (2) Those who declined were not welcome
- 3. Those at the dinner party had wrong priorities
 - a) Focused on self. Focused on property and possessions.
 - b) Focused on status, popularity, and relationships.
 - (1) *Wrong priorities have lasting consequences*
 - (2) *Could cause you to miss the banquet God is throwing in eternity*
- 4. Scene shifts away from the dinner party, but the theme continues

E. Luke 14:25-33

- 1. The dinner party issues = wrong priorities
 - a) Selfishness focuses your attention on the wrong thing
 - b) You miss what is truly important, what God thinks is important
 - c) Same principle is now taught in a different way
- 2. *If you want to follow Jesus, you must sever ties with wrong priorities*
 - a) *Status and acceptance don't come first. Jesus comes first.*
 - b) *Property, possessions, and toys don't come first. Jesus comes first.*
 - c) *Father, mother, children, even your life doesn't come first. Jesus comes first.*
- 3. *Count the cost, because discipleship is a total surrender of everything*
 - a) *When pictured like a banquet, it looks like sitting in a humble place*
 - b) *When pictured like a walk to crucifixion, it looks like carrying your cross*
 - c) *When pictured as a tower or going to war, it looks like counting the cost*
- 4. *Following Jesus means moving everything else to second place*

III. Conclusion

A. Why? – **Luke 14:34-35**

- 1. Because discipleship looks like salt on the earth
 - a) Preserves culture from rotting away. Enhances the joys of life. Acts like fertilizer.
 - b) Disciples help. And, we help because we care. We care because Jesus cares.
- 2. If we stop helping, stop caring, stop surrendering – we have lost our saltiness