

14:1-24 Humbly receive his invitation (or A dinner that is hard to swallow)

Warm up: Going to dinner at someone's home can involve unspoken expectations. Have you ever attended a dinner where you missed the crucial instructions and this meant embarrassment when you arrived? [answers...] Follow-up: Did the host handle things poorly or well?

Our passage describes what happens when Jesus goes to eat with some prominent people.

Someone to pray as we read God's word?

Read Luke 14:1-24

What are your first reactions to this?

Do you think Jesus is more challenging to the dinner guests or the host?

[This is a question aiming to help us see the two groups and notice that he challenges both!]

In verses 1-6 Jesus heals a man, once again on the Sabbath day.

Why do you think they remain silent to his questions?

[it's not because they don't have an answer! Perhaps it's because they don't want to embarrass this guest? Or be themselves humiliated as happened in ch 13!!]

Let's do some group work on the next sections. How many sections are there?

Perhaps three sections? To **guests** (v7-11); To **hosts** (v12-14); to **invitees** (v15-24)

Break into groups of 2 or 3, pick a section, and ask three simple questions:

- What is the **mistake** made?
- How **serious** is the mistake?
- How does this **relate to life with God**?

Break into groups of 2 or 3 people and discuss these questions for 10 minutes.

Then report back to whole group in order of the passages: Vv7-11, then vv12-14 then vv15-24.

If there is one big point Jesus is making to them and to us through this, what might it be?

[e.g. to know that God is our host, that we are totally unable to repay him for his kingdom, but that he gladly invites us in; our part is to humbly receive his invitation or else He extends it to others].

What is the mistake this passage suggests we can make concerning life with God?

[e.g. Presumption. Assuming we have a seat at 'the top table'. Thinking God is like a friend and he repays us because of our generosity etc, when we're really more like those in v13.]

How serious is this mistake? *[so serious that Jesus warns us in v23-24 so that we won't make this mistake]*

Pray in response to this; and also pray for one another...

A possible prayer: God, grant us to know that our place with you is only by your good pleasure and at your cost, not our deserving, earning, or doing. Humble our pride, and cause us to see how great it is to be invited into your kingdom and to live as your children.