

Kinship

Jesus both taught and lived by an order upside down from that of the world. At this time, to eat with someone meant you identified with them. Jesus flips not just the cultural expectations but our human defaults on their heads by encouraging his hearers to identify with the needy, not just the noble. And what we come to see when we compare this passage to many others like it in Scripture is that Jesus is not ultimately saying, “Do not invite your brothers and sisters,” but rather, “These *too* are your brothers and sisters.” This way of seeing the often-overlooked, according to Jesus, means you are right on the brink of blessedness.

Read Luke 14v12-14

Discuss the Scripture

- 01 Do you notice yourself offering preferential treatment to those of a “higher” social status? How so?
- 02 What reflections do you have on serving in ways that cannot be repaid? What about this inspires or confronts you?
- 03 Take a mental survey of those who typically sit with you around your dinner table. How does this teaching from Jesus speak to that?
- 04 What could it look like to take one step closer to the vision Jesus is laying out for us in this passage?

Discuss the practice

- 01 What did you decide to do for your one act of service to someone in need?
- 02 Did this act of serving challenge any of your preconceived notions about people in need? How so?
- 03 What internal shifts — such as feelings of empathy, discomfort, or gratitude — did you notice during or after this exercise? What prompted those feelings?
- 04 What reflections do you have on moving beyond service-provider to kinship after this week’s act of service?

Repeat the Exercise

For this week, we invite you to repeat the exercise on page 87, or to try the reach exercise there if you have not already.