



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 1: Jesus The Master Storyteller

Read each of the following passages. After each passage, discuss the following questions:

What do I learn about the character and mission of Jesus from this text?

What do I learn about the nature of the Kingdom of God from this text?

What does this parable reveal to me about whether or not my heart is aligned with Jesus and his Kingdom?

Luke 14:1-6 - Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Luke 14:7-11 - The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Luke 14:12-24 - The Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14:25-33 - The Cost of Discipleship

Week 2: The Wise and Foolish Builders

Read through the parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders. Luke 6:46-49

1. What are some aspects about the foundation you have in Jesus that you appreciate? How do you find comfort in that foundation when the storms of life come?
2. As we look at the two different builders one is diligent in removing the dirt that covers the foundation the other is not. As you look back on your life what things have you removed to expose the foundation of Jesus?
3. The foundations of our lives need to be examined and evaluated from time to time. What does this process look like for you? How do you engage others close to you to join you in that process? What role does your relationship with Jesus play in the upkeep or improvement of the foundation you find in him?

Week 3: The Good Samaritan

Read through the parable of The Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God, the nature of the Kingdom of God, and/or how your own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?
2. How would you define "love"? What does it practically look like?
3. When you come across people who need help and you have some means to help, what do you do? Do you ignore the need or engage the need? Why or why not?
4. Who is someone you can love who would never love you in return? How can you go about doing that?
5. Read Romans 5:6-10. How are we like the man in the ditch and Jesus like the Samaritan?

Week 4: The Prodigal Son

Read through The Parable of The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

Questions:

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God, the nature of the Kingdom of God, and/or how you own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?
2. Define Forgiveness. Define Grace. What makes God's forgiveness and grace so unnatural?
3. Why or when would God's kind of gracious forgiveness be uncomfortable to accept? Why or when would it be uncomfortable to accept it for someone else?
4. How can you relate to the younger son? How can you relate to the older son? Which do you relate to more?
5. Which son is more "lost"? Why do you answer the way you do?

Week 5: The Four Soils

Read through The Parable of Four Soils - Mark 4:1-20

Questions:

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God? What does this parable tell you about the nature of the Kingdom of God? What does this parable tell you about how your own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?
2. Which soil do you identify with?
3. How are the soils different? How are they the same? How are all the bad soils the same?
4. How does it make you think or feel when you realize that Jesus is making the point that rocky soil and weedy soil is not really ANY better than hard soil?
5. Why are you comfortable or uncomfortable saying you are good soil (if you are)?

Week 6: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Read through The Parable of The Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14

Questions

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God? What does this parable tell you about the nature of the Kingdom of God? What does this parable tell you about how your own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?
2. Which of the two characters can you most identify and why?
3. Were you surprised by anything in this story?
4. Does anything in your life need to change?
5. What do you understand about the character and nature of God from this parable?
6. What does the parable reveal about the nature of man?
7. Has hope been touched in you by this parable? How?

Week 7: The Value of Forgiveness

Read through Luke 7:36-50

Questions:

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God? What does this parable tell you about the nature of the Kingdom of God? What does this parable tell you about how your own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?
2. Why are you or why aren't you like the woman in this account?
3. Why are you or why aren't you like Simon?
4. What are your thoughts about the truth that the amount of forgiveness that you understand you have received determines how much you love Jesus?
5. If or when your actions don't show much love for Jesus, what is the answer?

Week 8: The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 in addition 31-46

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God? What does this parable tell you about the nature of the Kingdom of God? What does this parable tell you about how your own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?

2. When you consider your time, talents, gifts, money, possessions, influence, strengths, abilities, success, status, do you view those as your stuff, or the things God has entrusted to you; and if so what examples of that do you have?

3. How does your life recognize and respond to the GRACE of God?

4. Is your life lived by FAITH in you, or FAITH in God? explain your answer

5. How does your life reflect the actions of those who inherited the Kingdom in

V 34-40

6. Explain the difference between living from obedience to do stuff for God –V- living with passionate response to what God has entrusted to your life and from that the natural flow of what we do

Week 9: Surrendering All for the Kingdom

Read Through Matthew 13:24-43

Questions:

1. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God? What does this parable tell you about the nature of the Kingdom of God? What does this parable tell you about how your own will, motives, and thinking line up with God and His Kingdom?
2. Have you ever wondered why God allowed such evil to continue to exist in the world around us? Have you ever wished a certain evil person would be taken away from you?
3. What does this passage say about the reason why God doesn't take evil and evil people away (vs. 28-30)? What do you think Jesus means by this?
4. Why has God placed you around evil situations and evil people? According to these parables (vs. 31-33), what's the purpose?
5. As we wrap up this series, think back to the parable that impacted you the most. Which one was it and why did it impact you so much? Share what you have learned or been reminded of over this series?