LIFEGROUPS StudyGuide

Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Why Do You Serve?"

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - Don't grab the honor.
Point 2 - Don't fake the humility.
Point 3 - Don't expect your reward now.
Point 4 - Follow the One who served you, and wait for His reward.

Key Verse:

"And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

—Luke 14:14

Discussion Questions:

1. "Dutiful roses"

Pastor Miles borrowed John Piper's anniversary illustration: "Dutiful roses are a contradiction, are they not?" Read Philippians 2:3–4. What does Paul command, and what does he not forbid? Why does serving out of bare duty fall flat, with people and with God? Where are you serving on autopilot right now, and what would it look like for your heart to catch up with your hands?

Further Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6–7; Psalm 100:1–2; Romans 12:9–11; Philippians 2:1–2

2. "They watched Him closely"

Read Luke 14:1–6. What did the Pharisees set up, and how did Jesus turn the scrutiny back on them? Miles said, "If you're a follower of Jesus, you should expect to be scrutinized." Why does doing good silence critics better than arguing with them? Who is watching how you "act, react, interact" this season, and what good could they see in you this week?

Further Reading: Luke 13:10–17; 1 Peter 2:12–15; Matthew 5:14–16; Titus 2:7–8

3. Table 17
Nobody wants to be picked last for kickball or seated at table 17 at the wedding reception. Read Luke 14:7–9 alongside Proverbs 25:6–7. What did Jesus notice about the guests, and why would every Pharisee in the room already know this proverb? Miles said pride pushes us to take the high place but often costs us that place too. Where are you most tempted to reach for the best seat right now?

> **Further Reading:** Proverbs 16:18–19; James 4:6–10; Matthew 23:6–12; 1 Peter 5:5–6

4. "I'm a nobody"
Read Luke 14:10–11. In "will be humbled" and "will be exalted," who does the humbling and the exalting? Miles warned about the humble brag: saying "I'm a nobody" while hoping someone answers, "Oh, no, no, no, you're not." Spurgeon put it this way: "The way upward is downward." Miles added, "The test of servanthood is when people treat you like a servant." When did you last take that test, and how did you do?

> **Further Reading:** Matthew 20:25–28; John 13:12–17; Romans 12:3; Luke 18:9–14

5. The brief blaze
Read Luke 14:12–14 and Matthew 6:1–4. Jesus doesn't tell us to stop wanting a reward; as Miles put it, "The question is what reward and from whom?" What two reasons does Jesus give in verse 14? Spurgeon warned that gratitude from people is a firework: "You have seen the brief blaze and there's the end of it." Name one person who can't repay you, and invite them to your table this week.

> **Further Reading:** Proverbs 19:17; Luke 6:32–36; Hebrews 11:6; Mark 10:28–31

6. Who do I serve and why?
Read Philippians 2:5–11 and Hebrews 12:2. Why did Jesus take the lowest seat, and what was "the joy that was set before Him"? Miles reminded us that we are the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind He invited to His party. He closed by reframing the question from "Why do I serve?" to "Who do I serve and why?" Answer that for the hardest place you serve right now, then pray Colossians 3:23–24 over it.

> **Further Reading:** Colossians 3:17, 23–24; Luke 14:15–24; Hebrews 11:24–26; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15