

For week of March 12 to March 18

## Tasting and Seeing #2: Things to Do and Things Not to Do

### Getting Started

What is the most formal dinner you have ever attended? Why were you there? Did it feel strange? Did you know when to use the various silverware? Describe the experience.

Read the Text Together: **Luke 14:1-14**

### Discussion

It seems this dinner at the Pharisees house was something less than a jovial, let's have Jesus over for lunch, type affair, and might even have been a set up. What evidence for this do you see in the first two verses?

What question does Jesus ask in **v. 3**? What is their answer? What does Jesus do? How does Jesus justify His action? Do you think His justification is valid? Do you think they thought it was valid? What is the place for rules of behavior on the Sabbath, and who gets to make the rules?

**V. 7-11** give us an insight into Pharisee culture and protocol. It is easy to think the behavior of the Pharisees is foolish and petty, but is it really all that different from how we behave sometimes? Can you give an example of a time when you have seen church people behave this way? What is the difference between rightly esteeming one another and wrongly creating an artificial hierarchy? Should everyone be treated exactly the same in every situation? Is there a difference between treating people respectfully and treating people the same?

Are **v. 12-14** saying you should never have your friends and family over for a meal? If not, what is it saying? How do you feel about this?

There are three separate episodes in this passage. Beyond that they seem to have happened the same day at the same meal, is there any other way(s) they relate to each other?

### Wrap Up

Do you believe in the concept of "noblesse oblige"? (for a definition, check a dictionary or Wikipedia for a good short article) How does this idea play into what Jesus is saying?

When are the norms and protocols of society helpful and when are they harmful? When should you try to just fit in and when should you challenge the norms?

Apply **v. 11** to your life. In light of this verse:

- What must I change?
- What decision must I make?
- What action must I take?