

# Sunday Centerpoint

## Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus invites everyone to His table, regardless of their ability to repay Him
2. Excuses, even seemingly valid ones, can exclude us from God's blessings
3. Following Jesus requires 100% commitment, not partial devotion
4. We often justify our excuses while thinking we're the "good guy"
5. Grace doesn't eliminate the cost of discipleship; it empowers us to pay it
6. Our obedience doesn't earn grace—grace compels our obedience

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus instructs the host to invite those who cannot repay him? How does this reflect the way Jesus invites us to His table? (Luke 14:12-15)
2. Who are the "poor, crippled, lame, and blind" in our modern context? What barriers (real or imagined) keep us from welcoming everyone to our table?
3. Jason mentioned that when we decide some people are above others, we simultaneously decide some are below us. Have you ever caught yourself making this kind of judgment? How can we combat this tendency?
4. Read the three excuses in verses 18-20. What do these excuses have in common? Why does Jesus characterize them as insulting to the host? (Luke 14:16-24)
5. What modern-day excuses do we make to avoid responding to God's invitation? (Examples: "I'm too busy," "I'll do it later," "I need to get my life together first")
6. The guests wanted the benefit of being associated with Jesus but didn't want what He had to offer. How do we sometimes do the same thing today?
7. Jesus says we must be willing to give up everything to follow Him (verses 26-27, 33). Why do you think He's so direct about the cost of discipleship? (Luke 14:25-35)
8. What are some "good things" that can become obstacles to full devotion to Christ? (family, career, financial security, comfort, etc.)
9. "Cognitive dissonance"—justifying our excuses while believing we're fully devoted. How can we develop better self-awareness about the excuses we're making?
10. The sermon states: "Our obedience doesn't earn us grace. Rather, it is grace that compels us to obedience." What's the difference between these two perspectives? Why does it matter?

## Practical Applications:

1. Name the specific excuse you make most often to avoid full obedience to God
2. Tell at least one trusted person (spouse, friend, accountability partner) about your excuse
3. Each time you're tempted to make that excuse this week, take one concrete step of obedience instead

