

Digging Deeper: Eyewitness to Easter — Luke 14

Written by Rick Noonan, elder at MACC

Day 1

Pray to God, confess your sins, and ask for His help. As you dig deeper into His word this week, consider using a journal to write down the ideas and questions He has for you as you study. Read Luke 14. In verse 1 we learn that Jesus was being watched closely by the Pharisees, they seem to have ill intentions even though they invited him to the dinner party. Why do you think the Pharisees were doing that?

Day 2

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word digging deeper into the verses from Sunday's message. Again, read Luke 14. While at the dinner, Jesus performs a miracle on the sabbath as a test the Pharisees. This is one of many occasions when Jesus does this. Check out these other examples that Luke records, Jesus performing miracles, showing compassion for people, vs. blind obedience to Jewish law; Luke 4:31,38; 6:6; 13:14.

Day 3

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Is there someone you need to reconnect with whom you haven't spoken to in a long time? Send them a text, give them a call, and ask them how they are doing and what you can do for them. Read Luke 14. When the Pharisees were trying to trap him in some kind of hypocrisy at the dinner, he knows the motives of all the people there, an excellent example of God's omniscience, knowing everything about us all the time. What advice does Jesus give (v7) to those who are listening? Check out Proverbs 3:34 and 25:6-7, also James 4:10 and 1 Peter 5:6.

Day 4

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Write everything down in your journal for reflection and study. Read Luke 14. Next, Jesus tells a story about a large banquet and folks who are too busy to attend, vs. who ultimately gets invited. This is a popular metaphor from Jesus. Who is it that represents the folks ignoring the invitation to the fancy banquet? What does the banquet itself represent? Who represents the poor, the blind, and the lame? Think about your life and the people you know. Where do you fit into this story and what lesson can you learn and apply in your life right now?

Day 5

Pray for others in your life. Ask God how is He nudging you to come alongside them with kindness, compassion, and joy. Read Luke 14. In this part of Luke, Jesus has not yet been crucified, and the disciples are not yet having to 'carry their cross' for Him. Jesus shares another parable about counting the cost of things before you decide as it's going to cost you to love and follow Jesus. What are some ways that loving and following Jesus could cost you: He gives some examples in verse 25, what does Jesus tell us? In what ways have you had to carry your cross for Jesus?