

Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Humility Over Status** - God cares about our heart and motives, not our position or recognition in the eyes of others.
2. **Service Without Expectation** - True hospitality means serving those who cannot repay us, not those who can elevate our status.
3. **The Timing of Our Reward** - We must choose: do we want our reward here on earth or in eternity? We cannot have both.
4. **Counting the Cost** - Following Jesus requires sacrifice and surrender of worldly success and comfort.
5. **Living in Victory** - Christ has already won. We can live today from a place of victory, not striving for it.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Humility and Motives

Read Luke 14:7-11

1. Jesus noticed where people chose to sit at the table. What does our desire for recognition reveal about our hearts?
2. Pastor Jonatha shared about "Scheufeld's Cafe" and how quickly his accomplishment was forgotten. When have you experienced something similar? How did it challenge your motives?
3. The sermon stated: "As soon as you think you're humble, you've lost your humility." Why is humility so difficult to maintain? What practices help you stay humble?

Derived from Sunday morning sermon via Pulpit AI

4. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. How does God's perspective on what matters differ from the world's perspective? How should this change how we live?

Section 2: True Hospitality

Read Luke 14:12-14

5. Jesus commands us to invite "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." Who are the modern-day equivalents in our community? Who are the people we tend to overlook?
6. The sermon asked: "Are we inviting people to serve them or are we inviting people so the name that they are praising is ours?" How can we examine our motives when we serve or host others?
7. Share an example of someone you know who serves without expectation of return. What impact has their example had on you?
8. What barriers (practical, emotional, or social) keep us from serving those who cannot repay us? How can we overcome these?

Section 3: When Do You Want Your Reward?

Read Luke 14:15-24

9. The sermon emphasized: "You cannot be rewarded twice." What does this mean practically for how we live our daily lives?
10. The three excuses in the parable (field, oxen, marriage) were all good things. How do good things become obstacles to following Jesus? What "good things" might be keeping you from the "great thing"?
11. Compare King Solomon's conclusion in Ecclesiastes (meaningless) with Paul's statement in Philippians 1:21 ("to live

is Christ, to die is gain"). What accounts for the difference in their perspectives?

12. Jacob Slavin won the Stanley Cup and Olympic gold but said, "I can't take them with me when I die." What achievements, possessions, or status symbols do you need to lay at the feet of Jesus?

Section 4: Counting the Cost

Read Luke 14:25-35

13. Jesus deliberately "thinned out the crowd" with hard teaching about discipleship. Why do you think He did this? What does this tell us about the nature of true discipleship?
14. The "blue collar press" exercise trained hockey players daily to prepare for lifting the Stanley Cup. What daily spiritual disciplines prepare us to "carry our cross" and live in victory?
15. The sermon asked: "Are we too busy to recognize God is calling us?" What activities or commitments in your life might be drowning out God's invitation?
16. Jesus says we must "hate" father, mother, spouse, siblings, even our own life (Luke 14:26). This is shocking language. What does Jesus mean? How do we live this out in healthy ways?

Practical Application

Personal Reflection

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- Where am I seeking reward and recognition from the world rather than from God?

- What "good thing" might be getting in the way of the "great thing" God has for me?
- What does it look like for me to "pick up my cross daily" in my current season of life?

Group Sharing

Have each person share one specific way they will apply this sermon this week.

Action Steps (Choose 1-2 as a group)

Option 1: Practice Humble Service

- As a group, identify someone in your community who cannot repay you (elderly neighbor, single parent, refugee family, etc.)
- Plan a practical way to serve them this month without any expectation of recognition

Option 2: Examine Your Motives

- Keep a journal this week noting when you serve, give, or help others
- After each instance, write down your honest motive: Was it for recognition? Guilt? Genuine love?
- Bring your observations back to the group next week

Option 3: The Daily "Blue Collar Press"

- Identify one thing you need to "lay down" at the feet of Jesus (a relationship, ambition, possession, comfort, status, etc.)
- Each morning this week, physically or symbolically "lift" this sacrifice to God in prayer
- Journal about what God reveals through this practice

Option 4: Radical Hospitality

- Each group member commits to inviting someone "who cannot repay you" for a meal or coffee this month
 - Share your experiences at the next gathering
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Closing Exercise

The Cinder Block Moment

If possible, have an actual brick or heavy object available. Pass it around the circle.

As each person holds it, have them complete this sentence: "The 'weight' I need to carry daily for Christ is..."

Then have them complete this sentence: "The victory I'm living in because of Christ is..."

After everyone has shared, pray together, asking God for strength to carry the cross daily and eyes to see the victory that is already ours in Christ.

Closing Prayer

Pray specifically for:

- Humility to serve without recognition
- Courage to count the cost and follow Jesus fully
- Wisdom to identify what we're holding onto that we need to release
- Grace to live from victory rather than striving for it
- Opportunities to practice radical hospitality this week