

Review:

Lesson 1: Joyful & Teachable

Lesson 5: Teach Us to Pray

Lesson 2: Spiritual Foundations

Lesson 6: Stewarding Our Stuff

Lesson 3: The Audience of Parables

Lesson 7: Self-Righteousness

Lesson 4: What Love Looks Like

Distractions, Excuses

Luke 14:12-24

Jesus invested in relationships from which He derived little or no _____, _____ or _____ benefit. As a Christ follower, I should be asking myself in which such relationships I will be investing today.

Discussion 1. What are some possible examples of investing in relationships from which we would derive no social or economic benefit? What might that look like for you personally?

Is it possible that we Christ followers sometimes get so obsessed with how things will be in Heaven that we get distracted from actually following Jesus today? _____ in _____ starts now!

Discussion 2. What question(s) do you have about Heaven? How critical is it to you that you get those questions answered before you get there?

For the Christ follower, anxieties and complications in this life are not excuses for pulling away from God; they are reasons for drawing closer to Him. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, _____.

Discussion 3. When your life gets complicated are you more likely to get distracted from prayer or go deeper into prayer? If you are more likely distracted, what would be a way to change that?

Entrance into God's kingdom is radically inclusive, in that everyone is invited. But it is also radically exclusive in that entry comes only on _____, not ours.

Discussion 4. Generally, relationships are always moving in one direction or the other... they are rarely completely stagnant. If that includes your relationship with God (and it probably does), then which direction is yours moving most recently? Why?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?