Jay Williams November 29, 2026

A Seat At The Table

Luke 14:1-24

1. In Christ we are one big family and we belong to each other. Romans 12:5

2. Jesus said, "Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." Mark 10:45

3. Jesus commended Mary for listening to what he had to say, but Martha was distracted. Luke 10:39-42

4. Jesus told his host to invite vulnerable people to eat at his house--the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, because then he would be blessed, and paid back at the Resurrection. Luke 14:14

5. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Romans 12:13 MSG

For Further Study and Reflection

- *The Kingdom of God and Disability--A Commentary on Luke 14:1-24* by Rev. Steve Bundy. "Google"- Beyond Suffering Course Reader Articles (Module One, Lesson one- see article)
- *A Place of Healing* by Joni Eareckson Tada (Special inclusion of Lindy's story in Ch. 9)
- *All But Normal* by Shawn Thornton

Small Group Questions:

1. Read Romans 12:4-5. Does the knowledge that in Christ we are one big family, and that we belong to each other, make you feel comforted? Or uncomfortable? Why?
2. Do you agree or disagree with Brennon Manning's statement, "In every encounter we either give life or we drain it. There is no neutral exchange"? Can you share a time in your life that someone "spoke life" to you? Do you look for opportunities to "speak life" to others?
3. Read Mark 10:42-45. This attitude of being "a slave to all" is directly in opposition to the consumer mindset which our culture promotes. What are practical steps you can take to shift your perspective from **What's in it for me?** to **How can I serve you?** In different areas of your life – at home, at church, at school or work, and in the community? What does that look like? Be specific.
4. Are you aware of vulnerable or marginalized people around you who could use some encouragement? What would it take for you to make the first step toward helping or encouraging them as an individual, a family, or a small group? If you're not sure, are you willing to take the bold step of praying that God will lead and direct you to someone who could use your help?
5. If you are a person who is currently in a season of life or circumstances that makes you feel vulnerable or on-the-outside-looking-in, who are people you could talk to, to ask for help or encouragement? Are you willing to take the brave step to reach out and ask?