



Date: November 5, 2023

Title: The Inside on the Outside

Scripture: Luke 12:1-12

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

Teaching

Instead of an after-life passage, it seems Luke is calling us back to the message of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah urges his hearers to leave behind a broken religious system, for a heart faithful to God. Jesus’ words, like Jeremiah’s, critique the religious powers of his day, and are meant to encourage his disciples to trust not in the system of the Pharisees’ but in God. Likewise, the question for us is how have we have built systems and missed the heart of God? If the message of Jesus to the vulnerable is that they matter to God, how have we spread this message.

When we examine our hearts, and our own motivations, we’re often left wondering if we are furthering God’s kingdom, or our own.

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1. What’s the most influential book you’ve ever read, and why?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. We talked about a lot of heavy topics this week, is there anything you need to process through as you reflect on this passage?
2. In relation to systems in the world, what are some of the systems you find yourself in and how do you exist as part of these systems?
3. From your vantage point, what does redemptive work look like in relation to power dynamics in the world?
4. How does the reflection on this passage change or reinforce the things you believe about the afterlife? How does the engagement with this passage make you think about your engagement with this life?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Bitterness and Forgiveness](#)