



Date: 4/21/24

Title: Is This Seat Taken?

Scripture: Luke 14:1-4

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

There is a subtle image Luke deals here about this man who is suffering. His particular illness was associated with craving and desire (see Levine, Witherington p 392). When he is healed, Jesus then speaks about the craving for status and prestige that exists among those left at the table. The pursuit of this sort of thing will only end in humiliation.

Instead, one should seek the low places, the humble places. And at the same time, have a high view of others, who are often relegated by those in places of status, to the low places. This is where the values of the Kingdom begin to show. It is upside down compared to the values of the prevailing culture about working our way to the top.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

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

1. What is your favorite summer activity or memory?

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. 1. What are the “seating charts” in our current culture in the United States?
2. 2. What does it say to you that Jesus, in this story, did not condemn but offered insight and advice?
3. 3. What are *thin* desires you give time and energy toward? Why?
4. 4. What are your *thick* desires and how can you give greater attention to one of them this week?

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: Prayer to love the world again](#)