

READ LUKE 11:37-53

1. Using this text, list the attitudes and actions of the Pharisees and experts in the law that Jesus criticizes
2. Why do you think these religious leaders had managed to get things so wrong?
3. Despite Jesus' negative assessment of these religious leaders He still accepted the invitation to have a meal at a Pharisees' house (v37). Why would Jesus do that bearing in mind how He felt toward them?
4. Have you ever been invited for a meal in an 'awkward' setting. If so, how did you respond?

READ LUKE 14:1-6

5. Once again Jesus is eating in a Pharisee's house. This time He is being "carefully watched" (v1). Why?
6. In the room was a man with abnormal swelling of his body (v2). This man may have been
 - a. A servant of the Pharisee
 - b. One of the guests
 - c. A member of the community who sought out Jesus for healing when He knew he was at this house
 - d. A 'plant' by the religious leaders as a test for Jesus to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath day
- i. This man didn't plead with Jesus to be healed or to be shown mercy. He didn't declare having faith in Jesus that he could be healed and it's possible that he didn't expect to be healed...but Jesus still healed him (v4). Do you think Jesus today has any requirements for healing or does He treat every situation uniquely?
- ii. Nobody in the room specifically spoke out about their negative attitude toward healing on the Sabbath but Jesus' response to them in verses 3 and 5 suggests that He knew exactly what they were thinking. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows everything that **YOU** are thinking? (cf Psalm 139:1-4)
- iii. What is the difference between remaining silent (v4) and having nothing to say (v6)?

READ LUKE 14:7-14

7. Jesus challenged the dinner guests over their bad table manners where they clamoured for the best seats (v7) and using a parable encouraged them to take "*the lowest place*" (v10). What might 'taking the lowest place' look like **FOR US** in our culture?
8. Jesus instructed His host to 'extend his table' by inviting people for a meal who he would not normally invite, namely "*the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind*" (v13).
 - i. What does this (and His attitude to the man in v2) say about Jesus' heart for those who are disadvantaged and often neglected in society?
 - ii. Whilst Jesus was speaking specifically to the Pharisee hosting the meal, what actions and attitudes do you think Jesus would want His Church today to have toward "*the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind*"?
 - iii. Looking at verses 12-14, does this mean we shouldn't invite our family or friends to dinner or was Jesus making a deeper point? If the latter, what is the deeper point He was making?
9. How might we 'extend our table' at FBC to those who we currently are not connecting with?