

Luke 14:7-14

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why does Jesus say you should take the lowest seat at a feast?

You should take the lowest seat instead of one of the highest seats so you will not risk the embarrassment of the host coming to you and telling you to take a lower seat because the seat you have taken is reserved for someone more important than you. It is better to take the lowest seat, because the host may come to you and honor you by inviting you to take a higher seat reserved for you. Jesus is giving practical advice with spiritual implications.

2. What kind of person does Jesus say will be humbled?

The person who exalts himself will be humbled (See Luke 14:11).

3. How happy do you think a person is who only does things for those who will repay or reward him? How happy do you think a person is who only serves God because he wants God to reward him?

Not as happy as they could be, because they focus primarily upon themselves and may never be satisfied with the return they receive or the rewards they get for what they have done. The happiest people truly give without thought of a return or a reward, and they find their happiness in the giving of themselves and what they have to give. They are not disappointed if they receive nothing in return or no reward for what they have done. For them, giving and having something to give or share with others is a reward in and of itself. The happiness they can bring to others gives them great happiness without the need for any other return or reward.

4. Who does Jesus say you should invite to your feast? Why do you think He said this?

The poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind (those who cannot repay you). These are the most needy in most places, and those who follow Jesus must think about how to help the needy when they have the means and make the opportunity, rather than just use their means and make the opportunity to help only those who have the means to help them in return.

5. When do those who follow Jesus receive their rewards for serving those who cannot repay them?

They will be repaid at the resurrection of the just (See Luke 14:14).

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