



SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 11:37-54

October 20, 2019

For Starters:

What do you do for downtime? How do you unwind from the burdens of the day or week? How do you relax?

Do you typically prefer a planned or spontaneous approach to life? Elaborate?

When you were a child, who insisted that you wash up before meals? Who insisted that you wear clean clothes? How did you react?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text *and surrounding passage*. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud and slowly the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise from your group? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions.

Explore and see how God may give guidance in the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What is the natural and the surprising thing Jesus does to open the scene (v 38)?
2. How does the Lord turn the tables on his host? What is his basic point about the Pharisees (vv 39-41)?
3. In your own words, what is the meaning of these three woes directed at the Pharisees (vv 42-44)? Given the Pharisees' view of tombs and the dead (see Nu 19:16), what is the significance of the unmarked graves (v 44)?
4. What is the point of these criticisms?
5. In your own words, what is the meaning of the next three woes (vv 46-52)? In the sixth woe (v 52), what does Jesus mean by the key of knowledge?
6. How does this Pharisee dinner compare with the one at 7:36-50? Why the difference?
7. Typically, Jesus is thought of by some as "meek and mild." What is the significance of this passage's presentation of Jesus for you?
8. Of the three woes directed to the Pharisees, which one is Jesus directing most to you? Why?
9. Of the three woes directed to the lawyers, which one has your name on it? Why?
10. How would you like your life to change this week in light of what you've read here?

Prayer:

Lord, grant us grace to be free from the fears that drive our unhealthy decisions and actions. Show us where and how we make decisions to gain the approval of those around us, or to avoid their disapproval. Free us from a divided life - that we might be the same person on the inside that we are on the outside, in Jesus' name, and for his glory, we pray, amen.