# Luke 14: 1 – 14 Give and Take

The meal we are looking at today is a Sabbath Meal – the 1st Century Jewish equivalent of “come to lunch after church.” This setting is important for what will follow.

What do you think of the sabbath? What does God want us to be doing on the sabbath? Is the Sabbath Rule (Exodus 20:8) a command or just a guideline?

We’ve already seen that Jesus sees the Kingdom of Heaven in terms of Isaiah 25 and a heavenly banquet. Now Jesus wants us to think of the Kingdom of Heaven in terms of Sabbath Rest (Hebrews 4 uses the same idea). What does Jesus’ healing on the sabbath say to us about how we should view the sabbath?

Jesus always responds to the suffering that is before him, but never loses sight that establishing the Kingdom of Heaven is about a rescue mission (v5). How can we ensure that we get the balance right in our church life?

## *Refection: It is really easy to fall into thinking that Sunday is our day of rest, for us to with as we wish. How might we see Sunday’s differently if we viewed them as “The Lord’s Day”?*

Jesus observes the rush to be seated and it brings to his mind Proverbs 25: 6 - 7. This contains really good advice. Why is it important for us to grasp that lesson?

Push a little deeper and we are realising that Jesus is challenging them to think about how they see themselves, to consider their self-worth. How do we learn to see ourselves as God sees us?

Philippians 2: 6 - 11 is an important passage to dwell on when we think of humility. Jesus is able to remain humble without losing sight of who he is or his purpose. For Christians, why is humility important in proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven?

What are the ways in which we can show humility in our church life, and in the home/school/workplace?

*Reflection: Seeing ourselves as worthy and deserving of God’s grace is the flipside of seeing ourselves as worthless and undeserving of God’s grace. How do you get the right balance?*

Jesus sees the Kingdom of Heaven as a blessing to those in need. In what ways can our church be a blessing to those in need? Remember v5, are we meeting need in such a way that it is consistent with the God of rescue?

Jesus challenges us (v13) to invite those in need to our banquets. Do you think he is talking about hospitality or evangelism and outreach?

How does this connect with how we see ourselves (vv 7 - 11) but also with how we see others (what we looked at in chapter 7)?

How can we ensure that our hospitality reflects the gospel of grace? What practical steps do we need to take to ensure this happens?

*Reflection: Some of us are great at engaging with those we meet for the first time. Some of us really struggle with that. Where do you place yourself in that range? How as a church can we help each other be better at modelling the Gospel of Grace to the unworthy?*