

## **July 21**

### Luke 14:7-14

In these verses, Jesus teaches about humility.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Jesus says that when we serve a special meal, we should place less emphasis on inviting friends and relatives, but instead serve the poor. That is a difficult assignment. How difficult would it be *for you*?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, sometimes you call me to step out of my comfort zone and give of myself in ways that can be uncomfortable. I pray that I am able to do that, but it is not easy so I will need help from you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **July 22**

### Luke 14:15-24

Here, Jesus teaches about a different type of banquet, the “feast in the kingdom of God” to which his followers will be invited.

#### *Question to Consider:*

This parable is about the religious leaders who initially accepted God’s invitation to be His people, but then refused to accept Jesus as God’s messiah. We all have things in our lives that cause us to “hold back” from a full commitment to Jesus. What is holding you back?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, deep in my heart I want to accept your invitation – fully accept it. And yet, I am holding back from a total surrender to you. Help me to understand what it is that I cling to, and then help me find the courage and strength to let it go. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

## **July 23**

### Luke 14:25-33

In these verses, Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and he acknowledges the price *he* will have to pay.

#### *Question to Consider:*

As a follow-up to yesterday’s reading, if you were to completely surrender to Jesus, what would the cost be to you? What price would you have to pay? How willing are you to pay it?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, I know that the cost of complete surrender to Jesus can be high, but I also believe your promise that the blessing is worth the price. I pray for the courage to act on that belief, and totally surrender to you. I pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

## **July 24**

### Luke 15:1-10

These verses include the first two of three stories Jesus told about the joy of finding something that had been lost.

#### *Question to Consider:*

There's a wonderful image here, of a huge celebration in heaven when we turn away from sin and turn toward God. Think for a moment about your own decision to receive the gift of salvation in Christ. Describe your feelings about the fact that there was a celebration in heaven when you made that choice.

#### *Prayer:*

Almighty God, I know there was a celebration when I became a Christian. Help me to celebrate that decision every day with the way that I live – *for you*. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

## **July 25**

### Luke 15:11-32

This passage tells the parable of the prodigal son.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Be honest. As you hear this story, do you find yourself more sympathetic to the father who rejoiced and threw a party, or to the brother who felt the whole celebration was unfair?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, this is a story of grace and mercy. I give thanks that you are gracious toward me and I pray that I will always be gracious toward others. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.