Upside-Upside-Down Kingdom

Luke 14:1-14

1. God's kingdom emphasizes love, compassion, and deliverance for those in need. 14:1-6

Jesus reveals God's compassion, love, and power to deliver when he heals on the Sabbath day instead of following the rules and waiting one more day to heal the man. 14:1-4

The religious leaders taught that a person had to obey all their religious rules in order to be pleasing to God. Jesus taught and demonstrated that following their religious rules was not as important as reflecting God's character.

14:4-6

How am I revealing God's character to those in need?

2. God's kingdom emphasizes humility and service to others over self-interest and self-promotion. 14:7-11

Humility is a key characteristic of those who follow Jesus Christ and is to be expressed by deliberately acting to bring about what is best for others at the expense or cost of my own selfinterests. 14:7-10

God honors those who deny themselves for the sake of Christ. 14:11

Am I glorifying God or am I glorifying self in how I manage or control my own selfinterests?

3. God's kingdom requires me to live out God's inclusive character in my social connections by revealing the worth and value of the most marginalized people in our society. 14:12-14

Unlike God, I am tempted to be hospitable only to those who are like me, who believe as I do, and to those who may be able to do something for me. 12:12

I am to reveal God's character, not mine, by being inclusive of those I would consider to be on the "margins" of our culture, those who have no chance to enhance my standing or reputation.

12:13

Jesus says when I do this, I will be blessed and rewarded at the end of all things. 12:14.

How hospitable and inclusive am I of those who are on the margins, who cannot enhance my reputation, but might harm it?