

Luke

See Jesus

Two Views of You

Luke 14:7-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 2, 2022

I. Your View of You Will Determine What You Do with Jesus

Jesus is who He is. We don't get to shape and make Him into what we want. Your ability to see Him for who He is, is directly related to who you think you are!

You don't actually live life seeing what is. You live life perceiving what you think things are based on the "filters" you have in place. One of the biggest mind-altering filters is your opinion of yourself!

Luke 14:1 "...they were watching Him carefully."

They had already decided what they thought about Him based on what they believed about themselves, so they couldn't see Him for who He really was.

II. His View of Us Is Constantly Confirmed by What We Choose and Chase in This World

Luke 14:7 "Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor..."

He goes on to give them an earthly story that illustrates a spiritual problem we all have. He uses something they're familiar with, banquet table etiquette, to drive home to them something they do not understand – who gets into heaven and how!

Parables were designed to be a stomach-punch and a wake-up call to something essential that we're misunderstanding.

III. Our Only Hope for Salvation Is the Radical Reversal of the Gospel

The first step towards salvation is nothing less a massive reversal and a total upheaval of your natural-born, sinful instinct that says, "I am basically good and can do it. Just give me a chance. I'll get it together. Tell me what to do and I'll try harder."

Luke 14:11 "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

He's giving them a picture of salvation that ends in final judgment. He's talking about the kingdom – who gets in and how.

Luke 14:15 "...Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

Jesus and Christianity are not about discriminating between good people and bad people. Jesus and Christianity are all about discriminating between humble people – who see their true condition as sinners – and proud people who cling to their own self-assessment and refuse to see their need for a Savior.

Salvation will never be found by those who think they can scramble for it, earn it, or push and shove their way in ahead of others because of their spiritual resume. Salvation comes to those who know they don't have it, can't earn it, and don't deserve it, but come humbly saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

A. Look at What Jesus Had to Do For Us

See Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus was the perfect and ultimate example of the only person who ever deserved the highest seat, but took the lowest seat so that we could be seated next to Him with the Father, despite all of our sin that we could never erase or make right on our own.

See Romans 8:1-4; 9:30 – 10:4

B. Look at What His Spirit Has to Do In Us

The Apostle Paul himself gave testimony to what the Spirit of God had to do in him before he came to faith in Christ.

See Philippians 3:3-10

Verse 9 answers two big questions we all need to wrestle with:

Where can you get true righteousness? *From God*
How can you make it your own? *By Faith in Christ*

“...Like the apostle Paul, I was incredibly religious and self-righteous. And yet for all of it, I couldn't see the hypocrisy in myself. I was filled with bitterness, anger, depression, and joylessness. Often, I'd come away from being around certain Christians agitated that they could be so happy, and I was left restless that I could see a difference between them and myself but was never able to place my finger on it.

One Sunday, our pastor preached a sermon about using the Scriptures to examine your life, and it gripped me. He challenged us to look deeper into our hearts than we've ever been willing, and let Christ have a chance to address what we find there. I hesitantly took the offer and the Holy Spirit revealed my heart to me in a way I'd never seen before. I spent a week in such dark despair that I could barely eat, sleep, or function...But then I began to read through the Gospel of John, desperately trying to see or find anything that might give me hope...

...Shortly after that, God brought me to believe in the existence of Jesus, His sacrifice, and to trust in it. I know that salvation and faith are not feelings, but I can only describe what happened to me as being like drowning, almost to the point of death below the surface, and then suddenly being released as the despair and fear were lifted and I experienced life in my heart for the first time.

I'd read the entire Bible on my own by the time I was 12. I had memorized the second most verses in AWANA. I was homeschooled and went to Christian middle school. We didn't listen to rock and roll. I wasn't allowed to watch Disney or Pokémon, but I wasn't a Christian. I was religious and dead. But God, The Holy Spirit, and Jesus took out the heart of stone and gave life to an 'over-churched,' religious, Bible-thumping hypocrite who was just as dead as any unbeliever. I am who I am now by God's mercy and nothing else.”

~ GFC Member