

Sunday, November 20, 2016

“Open to Whatever”

Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Luke 14:1-11

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group.
- Now would also be a great time to allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday’s message.

Main Ideas

- Norflette asked the question “How open are we to whatever God wants to do?”
 - Sometimes our cultural viewpoint or personal paradigm makes us closed to what God wants to do.
 - We don’t want to miss the new thing that God wants to do because we are stuck in the old.
- In the beginning of Luke 14 people were trying to “set-up” Jesus, but He challenged their thinking.
- Jesus used the example of the “good seats” or the seats of honor.
 - The Pharisees thought too highly of themselves.
 - Jesus challenged them to take the lower seat and allow others to honor them.
- In many ways, we can be like the Pharisees.
 - We sometimes think we are more awesome than we are.
 - “If we continue to measure ourselves, we can get disappointed really quickly.”
- The challenge for the Pharisees and for us is to be open to what God wants to do.
- “Whatever you want to do God, I just want to be in the room.”
 - Jesus heals the man with dropsy even though it’s the Sabbath.
 - The Pharisees were so concerned with Jesus breaking the law that they missed a man who needed to be healed.
 - Jesus wants to confront the hardness of heart in the Pharisees.
- It can be difficult to be open to what God wants to do.
- Being a mosaic is difficult.
 - God has called us to be radically open to Him.
 - God has called us to be radically open to *one another*.

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these.)

1. How open are you to what God wants to do?
2. How does your cultural viewpoint or personal history affect how you expect to see God move?
3. When was a time when Jesus challenged your paradigm or the way that you think or live?
4. Answering as honestly as you can, how accurately do you think you view yourself?
5. How does God want to shift the way you think about yourself?
6. Have you ever felt like you missed something God was doing or trying to do because you were focused on the wrong thing (i.e., the Pharisees and the Sabbath while the man needed to be healed)?
7. How is God calling you to be radically open to Him? Be specific.
8. How is God calling you to be radically open to others? Be specific.
9. What is the “old” that you’re stuck in that might prevent you from experiencing the “new” that God has for you and your life?