38. Bring in the poor—*Luke 14:12-14*

In Luke 12-14, Jesus advises his host to invite people to dinner who cannot repay him. What do you think of this advice?

Should you exclude people from your celebrations who can or you might expect to invite you to one of their celebrations?

Does inviting people who can't repay you include people who are poor because they are lazy, moochers, or poor by choice?

There are two main points in the who-to-invite story. They are?

My wife doesn't like mixing guests at a party (people from church, neighbors, MV club members, co-workers, ESL friends, family, etc.). What do you think of this?

39. Render unto Caesar—*Matthew 22:19-21*

In response to the Pharisees' question in Verse 17, suppose Jesus had said, "No, we should never give tribute unto Caesar. Don't pay your taxes!" If he had said this, what could His enemies have done? Would the Roman authorities be happy to hear about a Jewish teacher telling the people not to pay their taxes?

What do you think Jesus called us to do when he said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

How can we "give to Caesar" today? What is our responsibility to our government and to our leaders? What should we do to them and for them? Do they deserve our respect and loyalty (*1 Peter 2:13-14, 17*)? Should we pray for them (*1 Timothy 2:1-3*)? Why? Should we pay our taxes? What has your country given to you? What should you give back to your country? Are you thankful for servicemen who have fought and died so you can freely worship God?

What is our responsibility to God? Should we read His Word? What kind of person should you be before God? As a responsible believer, what duties should you carry out? What spiritual responsibilities do you have? What has God done for you or given to you? What have you done for God or given back to God?

38. Bring in the poor

Luke 14:12-14 - [12] Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. [13] But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, [14] and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

There are two points (perhaps more) in the story. They are:

Point 1: Don't invite people who you expect will pay you back. That doesn't necessarily mean to exclude such people, but inviting them doesn't get you much credit in the Lord's book. On the other hand, I don't think Jesus is asking you to be deliberately rude.

Point 2: By inviting people who can't pay you back here on earth, you will be repaid by the Lord later in Heaven.

39. Render unto Caesar

Here, the Pharisees planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong. They said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are. Tell us what you think! Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?" To this question, Jesus replies with these verses (*Matthew 22:19-21*) [19] Show me the coin used for paying the tax. They brought him a denarius, [20] and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

[21] "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

1 Peter 2:13-14 - [13] Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, [14] or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

[17] Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 - [1] I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— [2] for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [3] This is good, and pleases God our Savior,