

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OVER UNDER SIDEWAYS DOWN, week starting 02.12.2023

KEY SCRIPTURES:

2 Kings 4:1-6 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil. Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

Luke 14:1-6 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. Then he asked them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?" And they had nothing to say.

Luke 14:16-23 "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

John 14:16-17,26 "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.. the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Luke 1:53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich (Greek word meaning those abounding in their own resources) *away empty* (Greek word meaning hollow, spiritually empty, without true meaning).

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there anyone in the group who knew about the 60's British band the Yardbirds and their 3 legendary guitarists? (*Leader's note:* please pass along the names of these folks to James Knox, as they are probably guitar players!)
2. What would you say is your top romantic movie quote of all time?
3. For this series, Ethan suggested "God needs to do some things *in* us so that He can do some things *through* us." Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
4. Read the section of 2 Kings above. What does that story communicate to you?
5. Read Luke 14:1-6. Jesus is at a gathering at the home of a Pharisee with a bunch of religious folks, and he challenges their way of operating. If Jesus was at your house, what do you think He might say that would challenge your way of operating?
6. Read Jesus' parable in Luke 14:16-23. Sunday's message suggested the three excuses that we fill our jars with could be classified as Personal Gain, Work & Responsibilities, and Romance / Relationship demands. Which of those would you say takes up the most space in your jar?
7. Mother Teresa said, "The spiritual poverty of the Western world is much greater than the physical poverty of our people in Calcutta. You in the West have millions of people who have so much, yet suffer such terrible loneliness and emptiness." Thoughts/observations?
8. Read Ephesians 5:18 above, then talk together about the personal prayer "God, empty me of me so I can be filled with You"... what do you most need to be emptied of? Or asked another way, what are you seeking fulfillment from that God's Holy Spirit wants to provide for you instead?