GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

* **How do you discern the difference between the call to urgency and the call to patience that Jesus gives in these 2 chapters of Luke? How do you respond to each?**
* **Based on the reading for this week, what are some of the areas in which we are called to respond with urgency? What are some of the areas in which we are called to respond with patience?**

**Main Point**

Jesus conveys both a sense of urgency and patience. He is teaching us when and where to apply each.

Jesus gives all people a call to urgency in accepting Him and finding salvation. There is no time to waste in receiving this gift. He also conveys the need for patience in accepting the call to discipleship, you must count the cost. Salvation is based on a decision to trust in Jesus and His redeeming work. Discipleship is a decision to die to self for the sake of following Jesus. Salvation does not necessarily result in discipleship. You must be saved to be a disciple but not all saved people are disciples, as Jesus defines discipleship. You are faced with a choice to make regarding your discipleship.

Have a volunteer read Luke 14:16-24.

* **Who does God want to “attend the feast” and why?**
* **Discuss the ways that this parable conveys the urgency of the call to “attend the feast”, that is accept salvation?**

The parable speaks to the prophesies of the Messiah – the invitation; the desire of God – that my house may be filled; the opportunity to say no and miss salvation – go out at once…bring the poor, crippled, lame, etc.; the response of the master to the refused invitation – became angry; and to the excuses of the invited guests – taken a wife, bought land, bought oxen. Read these verses again and discuss them from the Master’s perspective, from the invited guests perspective, from the perspective of those who were brought in, and from the perspective of the slave. Consider that the invited guests represent the Jews, the guests brought in represent the Gentiles (us), and the slave represents Jesus.

* **As a follower of Christ, how should we approach those who have made excuses to dismiss themselves from the “Feast” of the Master?**
* **What is your approach to the lost that you encounter on a regular basis (family, coworkers, friends, neighbors, etc.)? Does it align with the approach of the Master in this parable? Do you have a sense of urgency? Do have a sense of anger?**
* **What can you do to take an urgent approach with the lost?**

Have a volunteer read Luke 14:25-35.

* **Luke 14:26 is a tough verse. Take some time and discuss what you “hear” when you read this verse. Does it trouble you? Are you offended? How can you resolve the overall message of Christ with this one verse and your perceptions of it?**
* **When we cannot reconcile the overall message of Christ with our perception of a verse, it is always us that is misunderstanding. If this verse if difficult or offensive, share that with your group. How can you reconcile your ideas with the message of Christ?**

In verse 26 Jesus is basically stating that our affection for Him should make the affection we feel in all human relationships pale in comparison. He is saying that to be a disciple we must love Jesus supremely, above all else. He is speaking to our hearts desire. Discuss “excuses” that we as, Christians, make to dismiss this idea of loving Christ supremely. Discuss the idea of the “Jesus and…” approach to faith. Point of personal reflection: Is your spiritual life rooted in desire for Jesus only or is it rooted in a desire for Jesus and what you think He can bring into your life (i.e. peace, salvation, joy, comfort, etc.). What should it be rooted in?

Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 5:15 and Luke 14:27

* **Which do you love more your own life or Jesus? Be honest. Are you willing to carry your cross daily?**
* **Think of internal attitudes, beliefs, desires, frustrations, sources of bitterness, or resentments. Do you view these are your crosses? Consider the statement about seeking forgiveness for “having a back that the knife could go into”. What can you do to die to self, to no longer live your life but to live your life fully in Christ?**

**Application**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

* **Are you focusing on, preoccupied with what Jesus has done for you or is doing in you? Be honest as you examine this question and take it before God. Listen, and let Him give you the answer.**
* **What is your definition of devotion? When you reflect on Luke 13 and 14, does your definition go far enough?**
* **Make a purposeful and concerted effort to give up at least one thing this week that you view as a vying with Jesus for your full devotion and affection. Maybe it is an activity, a desire, a relationship, a way your spend your time. View denial of yourself in this thing as your cross for the week and carry it with joy.**

**Pray**

Spend time reflecting on the cost of discipleship and any convictions God is revealing about making Him your highest priority. Recommit yourself to God and the ministry He has called you to during this prayer time.