



WEEK FOUR | THE TABLE OF DIVERSITY

Ah status! Most everyone wants it. Those who attain it are either admired, at least secretly, or reviled, perhaps secretly envied? Status is a strange and frustrating phenomenon in pretty much every culture. Jesus was the victim and champion of status in his day. He was made the hero by some while reviled by others. To some he was a king and great teacher. To others, he was hated and treated with disrespect and suspicion. What's the deal with status anyway? Jesus made it very clear what he thought about it and what it does to the human heart.

GETTING STARTED

So, what is the deal about status? Why is it so envied, reviled, and polarizing?

TALK ABOUT IT

Read Luke 13:10–17 (Jesus heals on the Sabbath)

There is so much wrong here that it's hard to know where to begin. Let's try.

At first glance, what stuns you about this story?

Give a show of hands, how many of you are rule-followers? How do you feel that rule-followers are getting a bad rap?

APPLY IT

Ok so let's talk about the proverbial elephant in the room. There are more people, sometimes whole families, sitting at stop signs and traffic lights asking for money in Columbia. Let's ask some practical questions about this dilemma or is it an opportunity?

How do you determine whether you help or not?

Do you ever help? (Why, why not?)

Talk about the struggle.

How do you feel about your capacity for compassion? (Good, guilty?)

What does a diverse church have to do with compassion?

**Talk about the tension between following rules (scripture) and basic kindness.
(Any examples of that in our current culture?)**

Back to where we started, status.

How have you fallen into the lure of status?

How have you been hurt by status?

Go and determine what God wants from you. Do you want to be noticed and admired, or known for your love and compassion? Status is an addiction not easily overcome. Jesus actually seems to expect you to be humble and a servant. Lots to ponder, huh?

PRAY

If your group doesn't communicate with one another weekly about prayer needs, try starting this week. Set up a group text or email and get involved in one another's lives through encouragement and prayer.