



Sunday, August 9 | Luke 16:14-18

1. What are some ways we try to manage how other people perceive us? Why can living for others' approval become so exhausting?
2. We are asked to consider whether we live more for what we want from people or what we want for people. How could asking that question change the way we approach friendships, social media, work, church, or family relationships?
3. One way our desire for approval is exposed is through our response to criticism. How do you normally respond when someone challenges or corrects you? What would it look like to filter others' opinions through God's perspective rather than immediately defending yourself?
4. Jesus describes entering the kingdom with language of striving, pressing, and perseverance. How do we distinguish striving to earn God's acceptance from striving in faith because we have already been accepted in Christ?
5. When following Jesus becomes difficult, what promises of God help us persevere rather than give up?
6. How does the gospel transform obedience from an attempt to justify ourselves into a response to having already been justified by Christ?
7. What is one area of your life where you are currently tempted to ignore, minimize, or explain away something God has said? What would trusting Christ and surrendering that area to Him look like this week?