

Parable of the Guests (Luke 14:7-14)

Scripture Text:

7. And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them,
8. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him,
9. and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place.
10. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you.
11. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
12. And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment.
13. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,
14. and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:7-14 NASB1995)

Outline:

- I. Picking Your Place According to Man (v.7)
- II. Picking Your Place According to Jesus (vv.8-11)
- III. Picking Your Guests According to Jesus (vv.12-14)

Worksheet:

- I. Picking Your Place According to Man (v.7)
 - a. And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them,
 - i. **Read verses 1-6 first for context.** *[discussion]* _____

 - ii. **What** is the significance of the Sabbath Day in the context of these verses? *[discussion]* _____

- iii. Were the Pharisees **just** watching Jesus as they prepared to eat bread on the Sabbath? **Why** or **why not**? *[discussion]* _____

- iv. **What** is “dropsy”? _____

- v. **What** question in this passage was Jesus asked that compelled Him to give an “answer” to? *[discussion]* _____

- vi. **What** lesson did the Lawyers and the Pharisees learn from previous encounters with Jesus? _____
- vii. Jesus asked them a question that they had no answer for. **Why** could they not answer this question of Jesus? *[discussion]* _____

- viii. Jesus takes notice of the guests that were invited to eat bread together at the house of one of the Pharisees. **What** did He notice about the guests that was of note? (v.7) *[discussion]* _____

1. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places. Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it. ”

Luke 11:43-44 NASB1995

2. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.

Matthew 23:6-7 NASB1995

II. Picking Your Place According to Jesus (vv.8-11)

a. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, (v.8)

i. In simple terms, What is Jesus saying in this portion of the parable that is relevant to a our everyday lives? *[discussion]* _____

ii. Relate this concept to church life, how can this be applied while in the church building? *[discussion]* _____

- b. and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. (v.9)
- i. **How** would the guest who was asked to get up and sit in a lower seat of honor/dishonor feel? *[discussion]* _____

 - ii. Be careful! You might end up at the kids table!
 - iii. **How** might the guest who was given another person's seat feel? *[discussion]* _____

 - iv. **Why** would a person who lost their seat to another be forced to take "the last place"? **What** do some honored guest do when they are invited to an event? **Why** do they do this? *[discussion]* _____

- c. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. (v.10)
- i. Jesus teaches them to practice something that was in direct opposition to what they had been doing in the past and what they were presently doing at the moment. **What** do you think this did to many of the Pharisees that were present? *[discussion]* _____

 - ii. As is the case with all truth that is taught, there will be some who hear and _____, and still others who will hear and _____.
 - iii. **How** is **true** humility rewarded according to Jesus in this parable?

- d. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (v.11)
- i. Jesus, once again gives the meaning of the parable to his listeners, so as to make sure they get the point of the lesson. Give some examples of how this concept might be manifested in everyday life. *[discussion]* _____

 - ii. Is this some new spiritual concept that Jesus is teaching His listeners by way of the parable? _____
 1. Do not claim honor in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of great men; For it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," Than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.
Proverbs 25:6-7 NASB1995
 2. But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because

like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

James 1:9-11 NASB1995

III. Picking Your Guests According to Jesus (vv.12-14)

a. And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. (v.12)

i. **What** do you think about the question that Jesus posed to the one who had invited Him, was Jesus speaking hypothetically or with divine foreknowledge or omniscience? *[discussion]* _____

ii. **What** concept is Jesus teaching to His listeners in this portion of the parable? _____

iii. **What** other teaching is this reminiscent of from Jesus’ teachings in the book of Matthew? _____

1. “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:1-4 NASB1995

iv. Does this only apply to “luncheons” and “dinners”? **What** about “breakfasts”? Are there other instances that this may apply? *[discussion]*

b. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (v.13)

i. **What** does this say about how we should use the resources that God gives us stewardship over? *[discussion]* _____

1. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:46-48 NASB1995

- ii. Is Jesus saying that you should not invite family and friends to a “reception” or other event that you host? *[discussion]* _____

- c. and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (v.14)
 - i. **What can** hosting and/or giving to the poor say about a person’s motives? *[discussion]* _____

 - ii. **When** giving to the poor and having no expectation of them returning the favor, **how** can that person be repaid and by Whom? *[discussion]* _____

 - iii. Should we approach giving to the poor as purely a “transactional” process or arrangement? *[discussion]* _____

 - iv. **What** motivate us to give, invite some and not others? *[discussion]* _____

 - v. **What** is God’s expectation of believers in terms of their motives for giving? *[discussion]* _____

