

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 6

TITLE: THE PLACE OF HONOR

PART 9

Careful where you sit

READ LUKE 14:7-14

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had an uncanny ability to see what was happening around Him and always turn it into a lesson about God. This parable is no different. People were starting to scramble to get into positions of honor around the table and Jesus took the opportunity to point out that it is not pride or striving that will earn honor from God but humility. This again would have rubbed them the wrong way because in their culture, places of honor were something that were to be fought for and not given up easily.

Jesus looks at the physical, outward problem and relates it to what happens in our hearts. When we try to exalt ourselves and vie for position under our own power, there is potential for embarrassment and, in the case of trying to impress God, we will always be humbled in the end anyway. What Jesus points out here is that in our hearts we need to be humble and not puffed up or proud. This goes against our culture as well and so we are not that different from the Jewish people He was talking to here. Then Jesus talks to the host of the dinner and points out a similar thought.

He encourages the host to not invite friends or influential people but the poor and needy. The sick and wounded and it is for a very specific purpose; those people cannot pay him back even if they wanted to. The point Jesus was trying to make in both of these stories is that the rewards that we earn from being humble and not expectant of honor come from God the Father and not man and those rewards are far more valuable. When we seek to honor ourselves, we will earn our reward here on earth through the praises of men. Not that we don't like being praised but, their praises will fade away and God's rewards will go on for eternity.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How often do you see something happen and think of how it relates to our relationship with God? How can we better train our minds to be focused on what God wants us to see in the small events of life?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where someone was fighting for the position of honor? (at a dinner, or in a company, or even just trying to get the best seat in the living room?) How would that situation have glorified God if it was handled differently? How can we humble ourselves and pursue Him more?
3. What do you think the world has to say about Christians who humble themselves? Why? What can we teach them through our humility?
4. Why do you think it is so important to bless people that cannot bless you back? How does that grow our relationship to God? What purpose(s) does He have in those kinds of blessings?
5. Have you tried to honor God, others or yourself? How do we place it in that order so that we do not try to gain honor in areas that we need humility? Why is our humility so important in this?

WRAP UP

Jesus was always about His Father's business. Moments like this should encourage us to be on the lookout for opportunities to minister to and teach others about the love of God. Our Savior humbled Himself to the cross and died a criminal's death for sins He didn't commit so that we might have relationship with the Father. That is a humble way of living. We should be looking to ways in which we can humble ourselves and honor Him as well.