

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:7-14 (NIV)

⁷ When [Jesus] noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of

all your fellow guests. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

FOR REFLECTION

Last Sunday night, Sam shared about the extraordinary humility that Jesus showed in the moment when He washed His disciples' feet. What impacted you most out of that message? How does the parable of the wedding feast help to deepen your understanding of what it means to love like Jesus?

When was a time in your life that you given honour for something that you achieved? When was a time you were humiliated? How did each occasion make you feel?

How do you see Jesus' teaching in verse 11 playing out in real life? Can you think of some scenarios or your own life experiences that compare the outcomes of exalting vs humbling?

If you could pick three people, living or dead, to have dinner with, who would they be? Don't we as westerners have a fascination or infatuation with famous people? Jesus seems to challenge this thinking in verses 12 to 14. Do you feel like changing your dinner guest list? Why or why not?

When you compare yourself with Jesus, how do you think you rate? How do your achievements compare with the One who created the universe? How does your life experience scrub against Jesus? Do you think good enough to be on his guest list?

It is incredible that Jesus invites us to be His friends! Take some time to read the following passages, then spend some time praising God for His mercy, grace and love for you...Philippians 2:1-11; Psalm 8; Matthew 11:28-30.

How have you found this series? Share a highlight or something that God has changed in you.

