Parables: The Wedding Guest

Luke 14:7-14
Parable: The Wedding Guest

Text:

Luke 14:7-14,

7. And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,
8. When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him;
9. And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.
10. But when thou badest him, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.
11. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
12. Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.
13. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind
14. And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Commentary:

Luke 14:7, And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,
I. Jesus observed that those who were invited to the Pharisee’s dinner, selfishly, pridefully chose the best, chief, most honorable seats for themselves.

II. To these Jesus spoke a parable, a story advising his hearers to be humble.

Luke 14:8, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him;

I. Jesus advised, “When you are invited to a marriage feast, don’t grab the chief seats because someone more honorable than you might come in.

A. These vain social climbers would then appear foolish to the other guests.

B. These egotists never considered the possibility that some one more honorable than they would be invited to the feast.

C. Paul told Christians not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought, than is prudent and appropriate.

Luke 14:9, 10, And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.
I. The host who invited the guest who took the best seat for himself . . .

A. directed the selfish guest to give his usurped seat to the more honorable guest . . .

B. which caused the prideful guest in shame to move to a less prominent seat . . .

C. the move being made in full view of all present.

II. Jesus commanded his disciples, when invited to a dinner, to take the lowest place so that the host would insist that a more honorable seat be taken.

A. This humility, deference to others would result in honor as a higher seat is taken in full view of all the guests.

B. The Pharisees and lawyers present at the dinner attended by Jesus had arrogantly usurped their religious positions within the Jewish hierarchy.

C. Christ came as a lowly babe in a manger. God elevated him to glory at the resurrection and ascension.

D. It was also Christ, the host, who would depose the arrogant Pharisees and elevate “publicans and harlots” ahead of them in the kingdom of heaven.

E. The arrogant enemies of Jesus would have benefited greatly by a big dose of humility!
Luke 14:11, For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

I. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled.

II. Everyone who humbles himself shall be exalted.

III. Scriptures:

A. Matthew 23:12, And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

B. Proverbs 15:33, The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

C. Isaiah 57:15, For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

D. 1 Timothy 6:17, Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

E. James 4:6, But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Luke 14:12, Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.
I. Jesus also had some advice for the Pharisee who had invited him to dinner; viz.,

A. When you are disposed to invite people to eat with you, don’t invite your friends, relatives and rich neighbors who can be expected to return the favor by later inviting you to have dinner with them.

B. This means:

1. “One should not invite such persons exclusively.” Norval Geldenhuys.

2. “... what he (Jesus) indicates here is charity to the poor.” Adam Clark.

3. “Jesus did not mean to forbid our entertaining those whom we love.” H.D.M. Spence.

4. John Wesley stated that “Our Lord ... teaches a higher duty” than simply inviting family, friends and neighbors to dinner. We are also to be mindful of the needy.

5. Christians should be more than ready to do good without expecting a pay back!

Luke 14:13, 14, But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.
I. When you make a feast, give a banquet invite the:

A. poor

B. maimed, crippled

C. lame

D. blind

II. Jesus said those who so befriended people who were in distress would be blessed.

A. Inviting friends to dinner is a nice thing to do, but it will not lay up any treasure in heaven.

B. Showing unselfish hospitality to the needy of earth lays up treasure in heaven for the liberal giver.

III. Those who show sincere benevolence to the needy will be blessed, repaid, not by the destitute guests, but at the resurrection of the righteous, just!
The Wedding Guest

Questions

1. Jesus observed that those who were invited to the __________________’s, ______________, ______________ sought out the ______________, ______________, ______________ ______________ for themselves.

2. Jesus advised, “When you are __________________ to a ______________ ______________, don’t ______________ the ______________ ______________ because someone more ______________ than you might come in requiring you to step down in embarrassment.”

3. Jesus commanded his ______________ ______________, when invited to a ______________, to take the ______________ place so that the host will invite them to take a ______________ ______________ ______________.

4. Jesus concluded, “Whosoever ______________ himself shall be ______________; and he that ______________ himself shall be ______________.”

5. When we make a ______________ or ______________ we are not to call our ______________, ______________, ______________ and our ______________ ______________ only. They can ______________ us.

6. When we make a ________________________ we are to also call the ______________, the ______________, the ______________ and the ______________, those who cannot ______________ us. We
will then be __________ at the __________ of the __________.

7. Those who show ______________ to the ______________ will be __________, not by the ______________, but at the __________ of the __________.