

NO PLACE FOR PRIDE & PREJUDICE

Based on the command of Christ #37 – “Bring in the poor”

LUKE 14:7-14

7. When he 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."

I. Jesus Was Teaching Against Pride!

LUKE 14:7-11

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1. Jesus was discouraging self centered ambition.

Ambition = A desire for recognition honor, notoriety, and position

Matthew 20:20-21

20. Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

21. "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

Sir Philip Sidney - "TO BE AMBITIOUS OF TRUE HONOR AND OF THE REAL GLORY AND PERFECTION OF OUR NATURE IS THE VERY PRINCIPLE AND INCENTIVE OF VIRTUE. BUT TO BE AMBITIOUS OF TITLES, PLACE, CEREMONIAL RESPECTS, AND PAGEANTRY, IS AS VAIN AND LITTLE AS THE THINGS ARE WHICH WE COURT."

Richard J. Foster - "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT PUSH, DRIVE, CLIMB, GRASP, AND TRAMPLE. DON'T LET THE RAT-RACING WORLD KEEP YOU ON ITS TREADMILL. THERE IS A LEGITIMATE PLACE FOR BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS; BUT IT SHOULD HAVE ITS ROOTS IN THE CALL OF GOD, NOT IN THE DESIRE TO GET AHEAD. LIFE IS MORE THAN A CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE HEAP."

Proverbs 25:27 - "It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory."

John MacArthur - "SOME PEOPLE GET SO CAUGHT UP IN THEIR OWN HOLINESS THAT THEY LOOK AT THE TRINITY FOR A POSSIBLE VACANCY."

LUKE 14:8-9

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.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Galatians 6:3 "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

2. Jesus Was Encouraging Humility!

A. Humility is rewarded

LUKE 14:10-11

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."

Proverbs 29:23 - A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

Thomas À Kempis - "ALWAYS TAKE THE LOWEST PLACE, AND THE HIGHEST WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU, FOR HIGH STRUCTURES REQUIRE A SOLID FOUNDATION. THE GREATEST, IN THE JUDGMENT OF GOD, ARE THE LEAST IN THEIR OWN OPINION; THE MORE WORTHY THEY ARE, THE MORE HUMILITY WILL BE SEEN IN THEM."

JEWISH PROVERB - "GLORY AVOIDS THOSE WHO CHASE AFTER IT AND IS ENDOWED ON MANY WHO DID NOT TRY TO PURSUE IT."

B. Greatness is found in humility

Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

ANDREW MURRAY - "THE HUMBLE MAN FEELS NO JEALOUSY OR ENVY. HE CAN PRAISE GOD WHEN OTHERS ARE PREFERRED AND BLESSED BEFORE HIM. HE CAN BEAR TO HEAR OTHERS PRAISED WHILE HE IS FORGOTTEN BECAUSE...HE HAS RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF JESUS, WHO PLEASED NOT HIMSELF, AND WHO SOUGHT NOT HIS OWN HONOR. THEREFORE, IN PUTTING ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HE HAS PUT ON THE HEART OF COMPASSION, KINDNESS, MEEKNESS, LONGSUFFERING, AND HUMILITY."

DR. M. R. DE HAAN - "HUMILITY IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD CONSTANTLY PRAY FOR, YET NEVER THANK GOD THAT WE HAVE."

C. Humility is the result of three things...

a. Measuring yourself with Christ, not others.

Acts 17:31 - "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

b. Being conscious of God's continual presence.

Proverbs 15:3 - "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

c. Knowing and being honest with yourself.

Romans 12:3 - "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

II. Jesus Was Teaching Against Prejudice!

LUKE 14:12-14

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."

James 2:1-9

1. My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

2. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.

3. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

4. have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5. Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

6. But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

7. Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8. If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

9. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

John Chrysostom - "WHETHER [THE POOR PEOPLE YOU HELP] ARE WORTHY OR UNWORTHY, THE REWARD FOR YOU WILL BE THE SAME."

Psalms 41:1 - Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.

Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

John Bunyan - "HE WHO BESTOWS HIS GOODS UPON THE POOR SHALL HAVE AS MUCH AGAIN AND TEN TIMES MORE."

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."