

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. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:10-11

You Go First

This is probably not your favorite verse, is it? No, not really. **Why is that?** The topic hits pretty close to home. **What do you mean by that?** I know that I battle pride. **Yes, you do. It's good that you understand that this verse is not really about where you sit at a table.** Yes, I know that choosing where to sit is just one indication of the condition of my heart. **What are others?** I was afraid you might ask that. Actually, I was certain that you were going to ask that. **It's a question that makes you a little uncomfortable, doesn't it?** Yes, it does. **Why do you think that is?** It's hard to honestly take a look at my pride. **What's hard about it?** I know it's there within me, just lurking below the surface. It's pretty disgusting. I'd rather not have it. I'd rather it go away. **Do you think that it will go away if you deny that it exists?** No, I'm sure that it won't. **Do you think that your pride can be dealt with if we talk about it together?** Yes, I suppose that it can. **Let's do that then.** Alright, I'm game.

How does pride show itself in your life? I can think of a bunch of ways. **Let's hear a few.** Frequently, I have to be right. I must win the argument. I like to debate. So, in a debate or argument, I gather all the arguments I have so that I can win. **How do you feel at the end of the debate when you've won?** It feels very unsatisfying to win debates or arguments. Most often I regret having the debate or argument at all. I know that it is possible to win the argument or debate and lose relationally at the same time. **Why is that?** Debate losers think debate winners are jerks and a lot of the time they are. **Right. You don't want that.** No, I don't. **How else has pride been showing itself in your life?** I talk too much. I need to make my opinion known. I frequently interrupt others. I listen very poorly and I certainly don't pick up on the feelings of others very well. I hate to say this, but I like to be the center of attention. **Yes, I've noticed that. Is there one more way that pride has been showing itself in your life?** Yes, I don't want or need help. I'm self-sufficient. **Do you really believe that?** No, not at all. I just live and act as if I don't need help. **Do you think that asking for help shows some kind of weakness?** I'm not even sure why I don't ask for help. I know that I am weak. I know that I need help. Right now for example, I need all your help to set aside my pride to live the life of humility you desire for me. **So, you're confessing sin and asking for my help?** Yes, I am. **That's very good. How about starting with what this parable suggests?** What's that? **Let others always go first in all things. That includes far more than choosing a seat at the table. I want you to regularly ask me a question. What's that? Ask me how you can serve others and let them go first.** When should I ask that? **When do you think?** I think I should ask you that question all the time. **Why is that?** Because, I really do need your help all the time. **Yes, you do.** So, I'm asking for it. **That's very good.**

Lord, thank you that you love, accept and recognize me. Help me to know in my heart that I am special to you. Help me to express your love and acceptance to others, as I humble myself, so they can be recognized and honored as being special to you as well. Amen

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

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. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NIV Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

ESV Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

"Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

NLT Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NKJV Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit [at table] with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

NRSV Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

"When you're invited to dinner, go and sit at the last place. Then when the host comes he may very well say, 'Friend, come up to the front.' That will give the dinner guests something to talk about! What I'm saying is, If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face. But if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."

MSG Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when your host comes in, he may say to you, Friend, go up higher! Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit [at table] with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled (ranked below others who are honored or rewarded), and he who humbles himself (keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly) will be exalted (elevated in rank).

AMP Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

"Do this instead—start at the foot; and when your host sees you he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place than this for you!' Thus you will be honored in front of all the other guests. For everyone who tries to honor himself shall be humbled; and he who humbles himself shall be honored."

TLB Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

"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. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NASB Luke 14:10-11

Parables *Lowest Seat At The Feast*

So when you are invited, go sit in a seat that is not important. When the host comes to you, he may say, 'Friend, move up here to a more important place.' Then all the other guests will respect you. All who make themselves great will be made humble, but those who make themselves humble will be made great."

NCV Luke 14:10-11

Lowest Seat At The Feast

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Parables – Luke 14:10-11

In Context: *Read Luke 14*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:10-11

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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. | For everyone | who exalts | himself | will be | humbled, | and | he who | humbles himself | will be | exalted." Luke 14:10-11

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, thank you that you love, accept and recognize me. Help me to know in my heart that I am special to you. Help me to express your love and acceptance to others, as I humble myself, so they can be recognized and honored as being special to you as well. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you noticed people scrambling to be noticed and get their share of honor and recognition?

Why is it that people like to take credit for even things that they clearly have not accomplished?

When have you sought honor and recognition for yourself when you deserved or didn't deserve it?

When have you seen someone embarrassed and humbled as a consequence of their prideful actions?

When have you taken less credit or honor than you deserved and allowed others to have it instead?

When have others refused to accept your humility and insisted that your work be honored and recognized?

How has Christ's love and acceptance of you diminished your need to be honored and recognized others?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Let the Lord's love, acceptance and recognition of you diminish your need of it from others.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord loves, accepts, recognizes you and will reward you for all that you are doing for Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you have humbled yourself so that others could be honored.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

