

“Parable: The Place of Honor”

Text: Luke 14:7-11

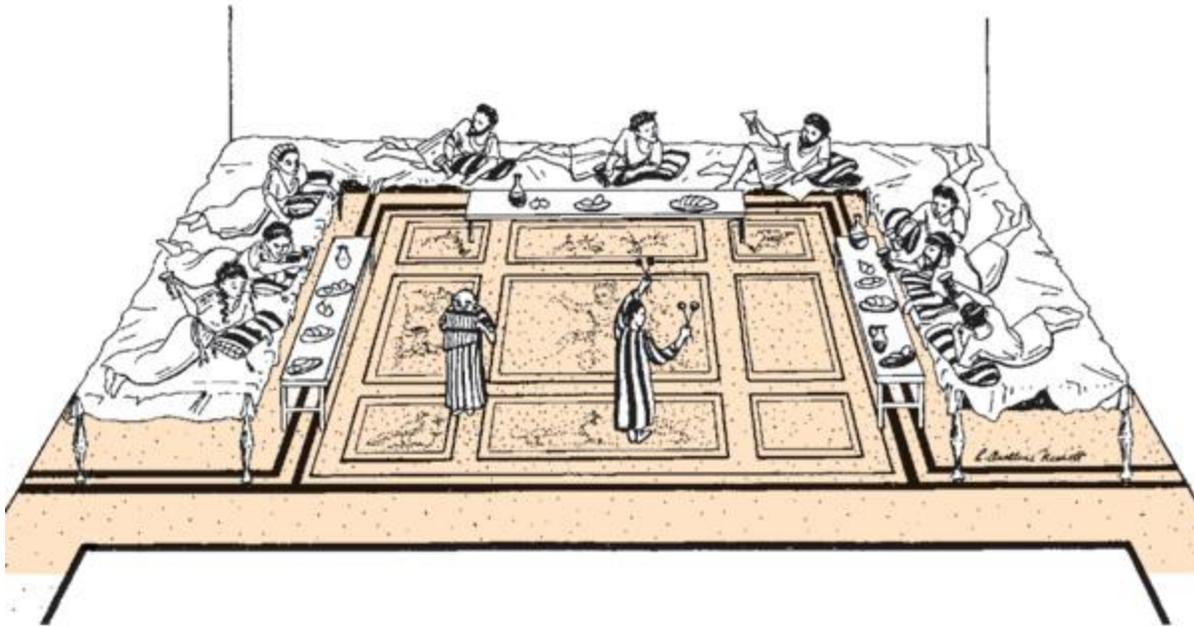
1. Sabbath Day _____ was an important part of Jewish life.
2. WHO are the Pharisees?
 - A. a major religious society, who were the most vocal & _____ of the 3 major parties (Essenes, Sadducees, Zealots) found within Judaism during the period of the New Testament
 - B. experts in the _____ Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) – also referred to as the Torah or the Pentateuch
 - C. experts in the 100s of _____ laws they had created over time to ensure Jewish people kept the Mosaic Law
 - D. extremely _____ of Jesus, in fact, they despised Him & were responsible for His death
 - E. they would be called “_____ legalists”
 - F. Jesus called them _____, because they were so intensely concerned about the tiniest infractions of their “own” rules while they themselves did NOT live by the “spirit” of the Mosaic Law.

Luke 14:1 says: “On a Sabbath day, when Jesus went to eat at the home of a leading Pharisee, the people were watching Jesus very closely.”

Let’s continue reading.....**Luke 14:7-11 tells the story:**

“⁷ When Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit, he told this story: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don’t take the most important seat, because someone more important than you may have been invited. ⁹ The host, who invited both of you, will come to you and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed and will have to move to the last place. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ All who make themselves great will be made humble, but those who make themselves humble will be made great.”

3. In Jesus’ day, Jewish _____ at a dinner was to arrange couches in a U shape with a LOW table in front of them. (see diagram below) Guests would recline on their left elbow, & would be seated according to their importance.



4. The HIGHEST seat of _____ was on the RIGHT of the host & the next highest seat of honor was on the LEFT.
5. The ranking of importance continued _____ back & forth until the LOWEST rank person would be seated the FARTHEST away from the host.
6. When Jesus saw HOW some quickly moved up CLOSE to the host, He saw an opportunity to teach a lesson about _____.

Let's re-read this story: ⁷ When Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit, he told this story: ⁸ "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the most important seat, because someone more important than you may have been invited. ⁹ The host, who invited both of you, will come to you and say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed and will have to move to the last place. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ All who make themselves great will be made humble, but those who make themselves humble will be made great."

7. This brings to mind the illustration about "The Voices of the World" that Christians have to contend with:

Appetite says, "Be sensuous, enjoy yourself."

Education says, “Be resourceful, expand yourself.”

Materialism says, “Be satisfied, please yourself.”

Psychology says, “Be confident, fulfill yourself.”

Pride says, “Be superior, promote yourself.”

Humanism says, “Be capable believe in yourself.”

God says, “Be wise, HUMBLE yourself.”

8. The late C.S. Lewis defined humility: “Humility is not thinking LESS of yourself. It is thinking of yourself _____.”
9. In the Kingdom of God – the proud will be _____, but the humbled will be honored.
10. The spiritual meaning of this parable is that Jesus has invited _____ of His followers to a wedding feast which is to picture the Messiah’s kingdom.
11. The host, who will be _____ Himself, will make the final seating arrangements. People should not dare presume upon their own importance. It would be better to be honored by God.
12. Those who seek honor for themselves will be _____ & embarrassed. Jesus explains that honor cannot be taken. It must be given by God.
13. God is not impressed by our _____ in society or in the church. He is not influenced by what people say or think about us, because He sees the thoughts & motives of our hearts.

Let’s read Luke 18:9-13: “⁹ Jesus told this story to some people who thought they were very good and looked down on everyone else: ¹⁰ “A Pharisee and a tax collector both went to the Temple to pray. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood alone and prayed, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give one-tenth of everything I get!’

¹³ “The tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even look up to heaven. But he beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

14. Humility is a trait to be held in HIGH _____ by a Christian.

15. Jesus, our role model, lives a life of self-renunciation. He _____
Himself & God exalted Him.

Philippians 2:5-9 states very clearly this truth: “⁵ In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. ⁶ Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. ⁷ But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. ⁸ And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross. ⁹ So God raised him to the highest place. God made his name greater than every other name...”

16. Humility is a fundamental _____ in the life of a Christ-follower. It is learning to NOT think of ourselves, but to think of others first.