

## "The Humble Way is the Christian Way"

Pentecost 15

1)

Luke 14:1, 7-14

2)

September 22, 2019

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It doesn't matter whether you are a politician – Democrat, Republican or Independent; Hollywood famous actor or actress; consider yourself mayor of the neighborhood, star of the class, or king or queen of your castle, every single one of us struggles with pride. And pride leads us into doing some pretty foolish things.

We see examples of pride in media and on the news. We see pride rear its ugly head in our own lives. But, is this the way that God wants us to live as dearly loved children of God?

It's important for us to consider as we hear from Jesus in our gospel lesson. How does pride affect us? And how does God want us to live in the world? We want to consider how **"The Humble Way is the Christian Way."**

**One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.** The first thing we need to consider is the aspect of Jesus being invited over for dinner. Our first thought might be to relate in how we might invite guests over to our house. This scene would have looked a little different. A typical dinner party would have scene the guests sit on tables low to the ground, perhaps sitting on mats or cushions.

Notice, too, that Jesus **was being carefully watched.** Jesus had been invited over by a **prominent** or "ruling" Pharisee.

As the guests were starting to sit down –

**<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table,**

- You ate around a low table
- Sat on cushions or couches
- The best places were closest to Jesus
- Perhaps when the Pharisees went to sit close to him, he told this parable.

- Pharisees were the people who thought they were better than everyone else.

**<sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.**

If you’ve been to a wedding reception, you can imagine what Jesus is trying to describe.

Imagine if –

- You sat down in the front of the room at the head table and took the place of the bride and groom
- You would have more than a few eyes and stares glaring at you
- Jesus is trying to describe our attitude before God. He said,

**<sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”**

Does God owe us? Can we contribute anything to our salvation? We need to be reminded that we are poor lost sinners before God. James said, **“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”** And Peter said, **“Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time.”**

It’s not about what we do for God, but what God has done for us. What Jesus has done for us. The Bible tells us – **“He humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross.”** Jesus humbling himself and paying for all our sins on the cross gives us the status of redeemed and forgiven children of God.

**<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Why do we do what we do? God wants us to practice kindness and generosity.

**“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.”**

**“We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).**

What does it mean you will be repaid?

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

**One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.**

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: <sup>8</sup> “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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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