

Series: Kingdom Stories III

Title: *Jesus Sets the Table*

Date: 1.17.21

Text: Luke 14:7-14

HI: **Jesus changes where we sit and who's at the table.**

FCF: Like the dinner guests, our sin and fragility make us susceptible to the temptation to find our identity in what others think of us. Like the host, we tend to gravitate toward those whose association will raise our pedigree or present the best possible ROI.

Purpose: To call God's people to respond to Jesus with humility and generosity.

Form: Hourglass (HI between points 1 and 2)

Outline:

I. Jesus takes aim at self-seeking by rearranging the seating chart. (7-11)

A. Self-seeking leads to shame. (7-9)

B. Humility will be rewarded. (10-11)

II. Jesus warns against self-interest by reorienting the guest list. (12-14)

A. Self-interest bears no blessing. (12)

B. Generosity will be repaid. (13-14)

Big Idea:

Subject: The character of the kingdom

Complement: Jesus teaches that humility and generosity lead to blessing.

Exegetical idea: Jesus teaches that his kingdom is one where humility and generosity lead to true blessing.

Theological idea: Jesus calls us to humility and leads us into generosity.

Homiletical idea: Jesus changes where we sit and who's at the table.

Introduction:

READ Luke 14:7 (Narrative introduction to scene)

⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them,

READ Luke 14:8-11

⁸ *"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him,*

⁹ *and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place.*

¹⁰ *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.*

¹¹ *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

I. Jesus takes aim at self-seeking by rearranging the seating chart. (7-11)

A. Self-seeking leads to shame. (7-9)

RE-READ Luke 14:11

B. Humility will be rewarded. (11)

J.C. Ryle: "The person who really knows himself and his own heart, who knows God and his infinite majesty and holiness, who knows Christ and the price at which he was redeemed, that person will never be a proud person...Ignorance—nothing but sheer ignorance, ignorance of self, of God, and of Christ—is the real secret of pride."

READ Luke 14:12-14

¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid.

¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

II. Jesus warns against self-interest by reorienting the guest list. (12-14)

A. Self-interest bears no blessing. (12)

Luke 4:18: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to **the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to **the captives** and recovering of sight to **the blind**, to set at liberty **those who are oppressed**...

B. Generosity will be repaid. (13-14)

¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw-- ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:11-15)

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Jesus' Mama sang about this: READ Luke 1:52-53

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

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⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--
by grace you have been saved-- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with
him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might
show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
(Eph. 2:4-7 ESV)