

Not
School's out!

Summer lessons from the parables

Main Point

Whether guest or host, think of humility the most



Humility

Not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less



When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable:



Luke 14: 7 NIV



“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. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

Luke 14: 8-9 NIV



Prideful Guest

- ★ Banquets were big on status
- ★ People would jockey for the seat of high status
- ★ Jesus says don't do that - don't create your own status



COOL RUNNINGS



Prideful Guest

- ★ Status has to do with how others see us
- ★ If we get “re-seated” it can crush confidence and value
- ★ Jesus isn’t about high status
- ★ The endless amount of grace and mercy is beautiful



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 the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."



Luke 14: 10-11 NIV



Humble Guest

- ★ Jesus says start with the low seat
- ★ This is completely opposite of the culture
- ★ God does the exalting on His timeline



Humble Guest

- ★ You can be talented, confident, AND humble
- ★ Jesus is the example of humbleness
- ★ In humility we recognize our need for God and allow Him to raise us up to a place we can't lose



Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 14: 12-14 NIV



Humble Host

- ★ Don't invite with the expectation of repayment
- ★ Erase the status gap
- ★ The repayment comes from God



NO MORE
ROOM!!



COME ON
IN!!

WELCOME



Humble Host

- ★ Jesus invites everyone even though they can't repay Him
- ★ Be a host like Jesus
- ★ It may be uncomfortable but sometimes that's what God wants from us



Wrap Up

- ★ Focus on being humble
- ★ Let God do the elevating
- ★ Host with your heart in one direction
- ★ Whether guest or host think of humility the most



Audio file

[Place of Honor Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

We're not having a party today, but we're going to talk somewhat. I know, I know. We had a party last week we're not actually having a party, though. It would be fun if we did, but we're not. I would also be one. I'm like all of you. I would just kind of want to be there. I joke with Stacy and say I'm just like your eye candy or something. I don't want to be the center of attention. Like, if any of you that have been married. And know on your wedding day you are the center of attention that whole day. And that was the most horribly awkward how many of our hours when everyone just looks at you the. Right. But we're going to talk about parties today, but not in the sense of having them, but but kind of in the sense of this of kind of what is the status at these things because Jesus is going to use banquets or parties in a parable to get a point across about humility. We're in the second week of our summer series where it's just. It is schools not out for the summer. We're going to keep learning throughout the summer. In the parable. So each week we will take a different parable, primarily from Luke's gospel and just talk about it and see, OK, what's Jesus trying to teach? What can we take from it? And today Jesus is going to use. Mostly, the seating arrangement actually at a banquet or at a party to talk about humility. And he's going to use it from both perspectives of being a guest at a party, but also hosting a party and how we can always stay humble with these. So here's what I want you to think about today, whether guest or host think of humility the most, whether you're the guest or the host. Humility the most, and I always like to have talked about humility. Before I found a definition. I can't remember who it was years ago that said it this way about humility. And I love this. It says humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less so not thinking less of yourself. So you're not there to, to knock yourself down or demean yourself. It's just meaning the focus is more outward. It's on the other people, not on yourself. So I want us to have that kind of understanding of humility as we jump into the passage today. So we're going to see in this passage how humility relates to our relationship with others and also our relationship with God. So we're going to read the first part of it. It'll be right up here on the screen behind me. It is bookmarked and some of those Bibles there at your table I will be in Luke Chapter 14. We're going to start. With verse 7. If you want to follow along tablets, phones all great. However you would like to. I'll be in the NIV translation, so I'm going to start by reading verses 7 through 9 and we will see what's going on. So Luke 14, seven through 9, Jesus is currently at a Pharisees house at this time. When he, Jesus noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table. He told them this parable 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. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and. Say to you give this person your seat, then humiliated. You will have to take the least important place. We'll stop there as we jump in. I want to talk about banquets and kind of parties in Jesus's day really quickly because they were. They were big on social status in Jesus Day and parties and banquets were very, very important the. Invitations to these were like currency. You were important with these and where you sat mattered. That's how you were distinguished. Now they didn't have the same type of setup we would think of with maybe a long rectangular table where the head of the table is either at one end or kind of in the middle with everybody around it. What they had in Jesus Day were three seats,

sofas. So you had these sofas and they were shaped kind of like a you around a low table. And usually the guest of honor, the person with the biggest status, sat in the center of one of the sofas. And usually I believe it was the one at the base of the you. So that is where your most distinguished guests sat. And then to his left was the next and then the right. And then it just kind of expand. So where you sat mattered. All right, so here we are. So that's kind of the mindset of banquets. So Jesus is at the Pharisees house and up to this time the Pharisees had been keeping an eye on Jesus. They're watching him. They're listening to him, waiting for him to say something. They can catch him on or or trap him in his view of the law or something. But it kind of flips here and Jesus notices them and he knows how they go sit at the table. And they're all like, in essence, jockeying for position. And they want this high seat, this status of honor, this best place. And this is typical behavior in a social status driven society in which they lived. It was almost an honor, shame culture, where if you're in that big middle seat, you are honored your status, you're the best. If you have a low seat or no seat, there is some shame. And Jesus is like, don't. This don't seek out this place of honor because what happens if somebody of higher status shows up and the host who determines the seating, the host of the banquet, determines the seating has to come up. I tap you on the shoulder and say Kyle Mark just showed up. You gotta move down. Mark deserves that seat. That's it's awkward, and it it's demeaning and it's can be horrible. I'm not saying that Mark would would take Kyle or anything. It was, for example, but he's saying, like people could see, you could be asked to move and this is embarrassing. This can be brutal and Jesus is like just don't. Don't try to give yourself your own seat. Don't try to give yourself this top dog. There was a movie that came out when I was a kid. I was probably in elementary school, so I'll date myself if none of you have seen the movie Cool runnings, about, the Jamaican bobsled team. OK, I'm getting some nods. Some are you, like, I don't know what movie was. The point is there took place in Jamaica. There's an American guy that went down there and he was going to coach a Jamaican bobsled team. So there's four guys that are going to make the team and he's starting to put them in the seats. It's a four man bobsled. So he puts the two guys in the middle, right? Well, everybody in theory would want to drive, right? Everybody loves the driver, so there's this guy soccer who's got the dreadlocks there. I'm going to be the driver. Coach is like, Nope, you're the brake man. You're going in the back. No, no, no, I'm the driver. I'm the driver. I want that. I'm gonna drive. He was like the best push cart driver in the country or something. And the guys. No, you're in the back. So he tried to give himself this, this huge seat, this this important place and in front of his teammates, this coach I'd be like, no, you're going back here. Somebody else deserve that higher seat. Don't try to boost his own status. That's what Jesus is teaching us here to in essence, not be a prideful guest. To not try to give ourselves our own version of status. Status has to. To do with how other people see us and we try to boost up our own status, we may think, OK, I'm just trying to be the best I can, but does it come across as maybe arrogant? Right. There was a I watched a lot of professional wrestling when I was a kid and there was one wrestler that slogan was I'm the best there is the best. There was the best there ever will be. You don't get to give yourself that. That's what Jesus is saying. And this guy, he was pretty popular, but that was that was the. Whole mantra. It's like no. We don't give that kind of status to ourselves. That's what Jesus is teaching, because when we try to put so much value or status on ourselves with other people, we're placing value in how they see us. But then what happens when they, in essence, reset us when they knock us down, they can crush confidence. It can crush the value. That we feel like we have and it can cause us to not see ourselves the way that God sees us, to not see the value that God has in us because we're looking in the wrong place for it. So try not to boost our own status with other people. And then also, there's there's a trick to not try to boost your status with God. Do we ever try to do this or try to scratch and claw and climb away up a pecking order of God?

Do we feel like maybe God has that? He doesn't, and I understand where it can come from, we. Can think man. I want to be the best Christian. I'm going to keep all the rules. I'm going to do it, all right. But that can just turn in to performing. We talked about this a little bit last week. We talked about the priest and the Levite just trying to keep all the rules well and the parable of the Good Samaritan. But it's really just a misunderstanding of what. God wants from us. He doesn't want us to just have this high status. That's not what Jesus was about, and his disciples didn't even totally understand this. And Mark 10/2 of his inner circle disciples. James and John say who's going to sit at your left and your right hand. And they're thinking about it in terms of like, an earthly Kingdom of who is going to be the best. And Jesus is like. It's not for me to decide, and it's not what it's about. We can easily start to get caught in the trap if I've kept the rules. I've kept my end of the bargain. I get to be on the right or left of Jesus on that couch. Which but when we do that, it's really easy and I've done this myself to lose sight of the fact that we need him. We say I just deserve to be next to him. We lose sight of the fact that we need him, that we need his grace, his mercy and his forgiveness. We don't want to lose sight of that because those three things, the fact that those three things. Are abundant that they never run out is the most beautiful thing about being a follower of Jesus. We have that gift from him. So don't try to boost your own status to Jesus, but instead boost your reliance on his grace and his forgiveness. And remember that. So let's not be prideful guests, but rather humble guests. That's we're going to go now, Luke. 14:10 through 11. Just the next two verses here. But when you are invited, this is Jesus still talking. Take the lowest place so that when your host comes, he will say to you friend, move up to a better place than you'll be honored in the presence of all the other guests for all those whose exalt, excuse me, who exalt themselves, will be humbled. And those who humble themselves will be exalted. So, not terribly surprisingly, here Jesus says start with a lower seat. Ourselves, then what can happen is maybe the hosts moves you up, you're being elevated by someone else. It's not you boosting yourself up. Someone else can exalt you in true exultation. We'll start with being humble first. Now this would have been a shocker to these Pharisees, to the people Jesus is talking to. This is different from their culture, the humbling yourself, in essence, would have been willing to say to them I'm less than that. Other person, they maybe they are doing things a little bit better or I'm not thinking of myself. This was unheard of. This would have flipped the culture in the society mindset on its head, but that's exactly what Jesus came to do. He's saying be humble first, have your status as a humble guest and take. The place of humbleness and lower to start. And then you'll be moved up. One of my favorite things to do with Jeremiah, my son is 7 is to watch him do karate. I know nothing about martial arts. I didn't do it as a kid. He's been in it for probably a year and a half now and he's doing really well, so I like to watch it cause I feel like I learned along with him. But when he started, he just last week moved up to his purple belt through the Purple belt in karate. But he started when he started back year and a half ago with this. This is his white belt, this very first belt and we've done this. We've kind of put them all up. We display them in. His instructors always say whenever they give out a new white belt to a new student, they say this is your. Most important belt. Because you have to start here to move up to any other belt to get up to black belt. Jeremiah, my son doesn't get to decide like ohh. I love green. Just gonna start at a green belt. Even though he loves it, he's like, no, you gotta start here with the wipe out. They even what they do to divide up each class is they have them line up in belt order. So he was just finished Level 1, so he's a green belt, so he's all up here at the top of the line. And he went to. He's in a new level, so he's all the way back down at the bottom of the line at the end. Online, but then his instructors will decide as he gets to move up. You take that place. It's a little bit lower. You start at the humbleness at the beginning, willing to learn, see others ahead of you, and then you get moved up. So as humble guests, we are to be humble 1st and I think we like the idea. Of

humbleness right people not being full of themselves or arrogant, but I think we got to understand it because we can still be good at what you do. You can be very talented. You can be confident and still be humble. It's not always easy, but you can. I think sometimes we can think off. Let's go to this one. Sorry about that. Everybody switch that red. Anyway, we'll use this one maybe. Let's hope I don't trip on. So we can still be good at things. We can be confident and still be humble. I think humbleness isn't weakness. I actually think humbleness. It's confidence in who you are and who God called you to be because you're not caught up in what? Other people think about it. It's a form of confidence. You're not looking at yourself or others to be the exalted to be the one that raises you up. You're letting God do that, and Jesus is this amazing example of being humble. Fully God, fully divine and fully human. But he came to Earth to save us as totally human. Right. Think about it as like the black belt coming down and putting on the white belt again. He came to Earth, he would get hungry. He probably got thirsty. I'm going to guess he had some struggles in his mind when his disciples just didn't get. It all of. This stuff he came as a. Human just like us. That's like taking away the seat of the guest of honor, but he started as humble. He could have changed it at any point he could said Nope, enough of this. But he didn't, because he knew that we needed to recognize our need for God and his ability to lift us up. So he came. And started as humble. That's what he wants from us is to be humble first, Peter, 5-6, says. Humble yourselves. Therefore, under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time. When we take a place of humility, it's not that we'll ever. We'll never, ever get raised up. I don't think that's what it's saying. It's just saying. It'll happen on God's timing. God will raise us up. It may not happen when we want it to how we want it to in the way we want it to, but when we recognize that we need God and we take that status of humility, that place of humility, then we allow him God to raise us up to a place that we can't lose. We can't lose it then. So we want to be humble guests. What about the other side of this banquet? The host, the one inviting, let's take a look at that. This is going to be the end of the parable. This is Luke 14:12 through 24. Then Jesus said to his host, when you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives or your rich neighbors. If you do, they may invite you back, and so you'll be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid. The resurrection of the righteous. We will stop there. Jesus flips it. Now we're talking about the hosts, the people that do the inviting, and he talks about who to invite. And he goes through the whole spiel of don't invite your friends, your family, your relatives, all this. And I don't think he's getting at you can't invite the people. You know, the point is about the heart behind it and the expectation of repayment. He's like, don't get caught in the trap of like, I'm going to invite my really awesome friends and then maybe they'll invite me back so I can do something awesome with them. He's like, invite. The poor, the downtrodden, the people that maybe wouldn't get an invitation. The people that could not repay you, even if they wanted to, saying invite them be generous. Again, massive cultural shift here. For these people, he's saying this paying back culture, this reciprocity doesn't matter. It's not about paying back. Invite everybody, right. If you've ever seen episodes. When Oprah had her show and it was like she was giving out stuff is you get it, you get it, right? It would be you get an invite you. Get an invite. You get an invite, that whole mentality. That's kind of the mind. He said Jesus is telling him to get at erase the saddest gap. It's not a closed party. The outsiders are welcome. Bring them in because our repayment comes from God in heaven. That's where the blessing comes from. It's like it's not immediate, but it's an eternal. So Jesus wants the people he's talking to. He wants us to be humble hosts, to be generous hosts, and to be very welcoming hosts. I was thinking about this in terms of parties that I was familiar with. I remember being in high school and either having a party or going to a party in high school and

they're usually limits on the number of people because you were at your parents house. So mom and Dad would be like you. Have eight people over. You have 10 people over. You have to. Decide well, man, who's coming? Who's getting the invite? We're the cool kids. Or who's the girl that I'm kind of nervous to talk to, but maybe she'll come to my party. Right. That's we're doing contrast. With a college party at an apartment or a house, and it's like everybody come on in, doors open. I went to a smaller college here in Madison, and it was like the entire dorm was invited. Didn't matter if we didn't know their names, who they were, where they were from. Come on in to the party now. In terms of the inviting, not the content or the type of party, but the inviting we should be. More like that. College party host bring them in. Doesn't matter who they are, where they're from. That's the idea Jesus is getting. No idea if you're going to get repaid from anything, but being generous and not being stingy or expected to get invited back to something. So think about seeing Jesus as our host, right? He doesn't expect to get paid back. He welcomes everyone he knows they can't repay him. He came to Earth and he died the death and rose again for our sins as a totally blameless and sinless man. We can't repay him. And he doesn't need us to be. Just wants us. To follow him. And yet we're still invited. We're invited by God to be guests at his table. He wants us as humble guests to know our need for him. And then in turn, be humble hosts to other people. So think about who you invite to things, whether it's actual gatherings, parties, or just the people. You kind of have in your circle or that you associate with. Do you ever invite with the expectation of being invited back? Or having some sort of payment back like I'm gonna have this person come over and then maybe they'll invite me. To go out on their boat later. Now if it happens, it's OK if people invite you back to things, that's actually fine, but it's about where our heart is when we invite them. And man, God's been trying to kind of stretch me in this way because I am a creature of habit. Keep to myself. I like to be around the people I know, but he's stretching me through my 3 year old daughter Joella, who wants to play with literally everybody and anybody out there. We we stopped at a park in Verona at Harriet Park over here this week. And we get out of the van and there's one little girl on the swing being pushed by her dad and she says, Ohh, hey, there's a little girl here. I bet she'll play. With me and I'm thinking. Now we're going to talk to this little girl. I'm have to talk to the dad and do that awkward small talk thing which is just not my comfort zone. But Joel is like everybody, let's just all play together. Why wouldn't we? Right. I just want to run around and. She followed this girl around the park. And it's like. How can I get a little bit more like my 3 year old there at 37? I'm like man, I'm learning from her but it's about that mindset of wanting to include and just be generous with who we're around. Sometimes God wants us to be uncomfortable. It's not that everything you invite, you have to invite the entire world to, but it's about having that mindset of a welcoming host, of a generous host of including people. Sometimes it takes being uncomfortable to be the kind of host Jesus wants us to be. So at some point out, maybe even this summer, you will all be a guest or a host in some way, I would. So focus on being humble through this part. You know, when you're the guest, let God do the elevating. It doesn't matter what seat you're at, you don't have to be the guest of honor, or even the plus one. Can just be there and be wherever you are. If others want to be in that top seat, celebrate with them. Just like Jesus was and focus on your need for his grace. And his mercy, rather than your need to be the best. Because remember, that's the beauty of following Jesus is that grace and mercy and forgiveness we get from him. And then when you host or, why don't you invite or you you do things like that. Just make sure heart is kind of in that One Direction. That's about being generous to the other people. You know, we can't repay what Jesus did for us. So don't expect somebody to repay you for being generous to them or inviting them because we're still invited by God and we always are. We want to take that mentality. When we host. So again, whether you guess you're a guest or whether you host, just remember to think

of humility the most. Gotta thank you for this message for this little parable. God, just these few short verses where you teach about humility, God and including others. And being generous with others and just taking a place where God, where the focus is on others and just not on ourselves and God, as difficult as that can be, I pray that you would help us all. And God, that you would help us instead. Focus on our relationship with you and how wonderful that is, how beautiful it is that we have a relationship with you and that you invite us knowing we can't. So I pray that we would keep that mindset, keep that heart as we go God, and we would just be humble. And just celebrate with others to rejoice with others and invite others. So I pray God that you would keep this parable, God and this lesson on our hearts, your.