

No Place For Pride And Prejudice In God's Kingdom!

Luke 14:1-7 (ESV)

1 One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a RULER OF THE PHARISEES, they were watching him carefully.

2 And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy.

3 And Jesus responded to the LAWYERS AND PHARISEES, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?"

4 But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away.

5 And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?"

6 And they could not reply to these things.

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

I. Jesus Was Teaching Against Pride!

Luke 14:7 (ESV) - Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them,

1. Jesus was discouraging self centered ambition!

Ambition = A desire for recognition honor, notoriety, and position

Matthew 20:20-21 (ESV)

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

Sir Philip Sidney – "To be ambitious of true honor and of the real glory and perfection of our nature is the very principle and incentive of virtue. But to be ambitious of titles, place, ceremonial respects and pageantry is as vain and little as the things are which we court."

Richard J. Foster – "The fruit of the spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp, and trample. Don't let the rat-racing world keep you on its treadmill. There is a legitimate place for blood, sweat, and tears; but it should have its roots in the

call of God, not in the desire to get ahead. Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap."

Proverbs 25:27 (ESV)- It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.

John MacArthur - "Some people get so caught up in their own holiness that they look at the trinity for a possible vacancy."

Luke 14:8-9 (ESV)

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.

Proverbs 16:18 (ESV) - Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Galatians 6:3 (ESV) - For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

2. Jesus Was Encouraging Humility!

A. Humility is rewarded!

Luke 14:10-11 (ESV)

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."

Proverbs 29:23 (ESV) - One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

Thomas À Kempis - "Always take the lowest place, and the highest will be given to you, for high structures require a solid foundation. The greatest, in the judgment of god, are the least in their own opinion; the more worthy they are, the more humility will be seen in them."

Glory avoids those who chase after it and is endowed on many who did not try to pursue it!

B. Greatness is found in humility!

Matthew 18:4 (ESV) - Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Andrew Murray - "The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him. He can bear to hear others praised while he is forgotten because... he has received the Spirit of Jesus, who pleased not Himself, and who sought not His own honor. Therefore, in putting on the lord Jesus Christ he has put on the heart of compassion, kindness, meekness, longsuffering, and humility."

Humble people are not conscious of being humble!

Dr. M. R. Dehaan - "Humility is something we should constantly pray for, yet never thank God that we have."

C. Humility is the result of three things!

a. Measuring yourself with Christ, not others.

Acts 17:31 (ESV) - because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

b. Being conscious of God's continual presence.

Proverbs 15:3 (ESV) - The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

c. Knowing and being honest with yourself.

Romans 12:3 (ESV) - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

II. Jesus Was Teaching Against Prejudice!

Luke 14:12-14 (ESV)

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."

James 2:1-9 (ESV)

1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,

3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"

4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?

7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

John Chrysostom – "Whether [the poor people you help] are worthy or unworthy, the reward for you will be the same."

Psalms 41:1 (ESV) - Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;

Proverbs 19:17 (ESV) - Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

John Bunyan - "He who bestows his goods upon the poor shall have as much again and ten times more."

Matthew 19:21 (ESV) - Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

EVERYTHING we do MUST be led of the Holy Spirit!

In His Kingdom you must trade in your pride and prejudice for humility and hospitality!