

Date: 12.03.2004

Passage: Luke 14:7-15 (Parable of the guest)

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*Other than at wedding feasts, what applications can we derive from this parable?*

- Seating at the place of honor:  
An action of seeking honor for ourselves, e.g. making sure that people know about one's quality work, touting one's trumpet to others.
- Seating at the lowest seat:  
Contrary to conventional teachings, instead of pushing one's accomplishments forward, e.g. to one's supervisor etc., be humble about it. It is more important that God sees what you do instead of being concerned about what men will see. Ultimately, He will reward you according to what you have done. (See Matthew 23:5-12) It is much better for others to praise you and not your own lips. This is an exercise of faith to trust that God is in control over all things and that the greater reward is the heavenly reward.  
Self-reflection question: Will I be okay being in the lowest position (or current position) for the rest of my life?
- More distinguished guest:  
Be aware that there'll always be people who are better at the things you think you do best.
- Inviting those who are unable to repay:  
We should check the motives of our actions and decisions – to give without expectations of repayment. It is important to remember God's gift to us – Jesus – because He loves us.

*Who should be in the place of honor?*

God, He's the one to whom we should give the honor.

*Why did the person at the table say that 'Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God'?*

The person assumes that if he does this work i.e. invite the poor, the lame, the crippled and the blind, he will be rewarded in heaven and feast in heaven with God. James 2:26 stated that 'As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.' However, one must be aware that faith comes first before deeds, as Hebrews 11:6 states that '...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.'

*Other points and discussion:*

As the person moves from lowest seat to place of honor, it can be an analogy of our spiritual life where we move closer to God. We need to be humble when we come before Him. Jesus gave us an excellent example when He humbled Himself to serve His disciples by washing their feet. (See John 13:1 – 17 and Luke 22:24 – 27)

*Some scriptural reference in Proverbs related to the parable:*

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 25:6 – 7

Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; <sup>7</sup> it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.

Proverbs 25:27

It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.

Proverbs 27:2

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

Proverbs 29:23 (NASB)

A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.