

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

¶And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms....But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: Luke 14:7,10:

This intriguing text brings to light the essence of His call to true humility and service to God. In the seventh verse the Lord "marked how the pharisees chose out the chief rooms" - the seats of highest honor being closest to the master of the house. One's seating arrangement was a designation of their societal importance. Sycophants would often jockey for higher positions by flattery and by proving their ability to enhance the status of the host. It is interesting to note here, that very little has changed in 21 centuries. There are those who adulate the rich and famous in hopes of gaining some standing with them. Movie stars have their legion of devotees. Athletes are swarmed by their admirers. Political leaders amass huge rallies of supporters. Religious luminaries attract multitudes to their meetings. All of these hoping to gain some place of distinction by association and the objects of their devotion carefully filtering through the masses to see who among them might best inflate their station and so find the highest seats..

Now note here the glorious Maker of heaven and earth chooses for his holy cadre the ignorant, the common, the persona non grata. Could we sinful miscreants find a more congeal text than Luke 15:1-2: Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. The Divine Messenger made himself of no reputation so he could include the disenfranchised and call them his friends.

So the Lord makes His point, When deciding who to invite to your soiree put at the top of your guest list the undesirables- the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. These that have no means to repay your kindness. No quid pro quo. No handsome return on your investment. Let the unworthies of society, the forgotten men, women, and children be the objects of your benevolence and expect no recompense. Beloved Let us as His church today act in His behalf, for surrounding us we will find all of the above cases, worthy of our love and attention. The Lord is careful to add the reminder: thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Matthew 25:34-40: Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Oh what consolation shall be ours as we celebrate at the marriage feast of the Lamb. We have hope that seated next to us will be those many who on earth were beneficiaries of our kindnesses. On earth, they could offer us nothing but a word of thanks but here we can now harmonize our praise to our common King. But do I with wonder hear Him say "Friend, go up higher" and now be seated with me in heavenly places! Hope deferred would thus be recompensed. How good it was to seek out the lowest seat in the service of God that we might hear that glad promotion. "Go Up Higher!"

Have a blessed day .

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17