

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #204

## Jesus' Ministry in Perea After the Feast of dedication

### Jesus Teaches About the Virtue of Humility

LK 14.7-14

7 Jesus noticed how the guests at a dinner carefully picked out the places of honor at the table for themselves, so he told them this parable:

*8 "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. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, thoroughly humiliated, you will have to take the lowliest place.*

*10 "But when you are invited, take the least honored 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.*

*11 "For all those who make a practice of exalting themselves will be humbled, and those who constantly humble themselves will be exalted."*

12 Then Jesus said to his host,

*"When you give a brunch 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.*

*13 "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, (14) and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	In the Home of a Pharisee, in Perea
Timeline	January or February (Months 36 & 37)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VII: Jesus' Ministry in Perea
	A. Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem After the Feast of Dedication
Title	3. Jesus Teaches About the Virtue of Humility

### COMMENT:

In today's reading Jesus continued his loving ministry to the Pharisees he had joined for dinner, by giving them two lessons that applied directly to the attitudes he observed among them that night.

First, Jesus addressed the pride that polluted their behavior. Specifically, they were all vying for the honored seats. Each of them felt like they were more distinguished than their colleagues, and worthy of special acknowledgement.

## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #204

Jesus told them to choose humility instead, and assume that others were more worthy of honor than themselves. The lowliest seats belonged to the greatest sinners among them, and those who would be servants of the others. That is the attitude that Jesus considered to be true greatness (MT Ch. 18).

Jesus laid out a universal principle concerning humility in verse 11. All who humble themselves, assuming that they are more sinful than others, and seek to build up others by serving them, will ultimately be recognized by God for the beauty of their humility. On the other hand, all who consider themselves to be more righteous than others, and therefore expect to be waited upon by others, will ultimately be judged by God for the sinfulness of their prideful attitude.

Truly godly people are deeply conscious of their own sinfulness, and genuinely motivated by God's love to serve others in every way they can.

Secondly, Jesus pointed out the kingdom perspective that motivates true humility. Self-centered people do, say, and give to others with an ulterior motive of getting something back in return. The proof of our selfish motivation can be found in the disappointment we feel when others do not recognize what we have done for them with appropriate recognition, or by returning the favor when we need it. Anytime we feel like what we have done for others obligates them to respond in kind, our motives are impure.

On the other hand, a kingdom perspective causes us to serve others as a response to the unmerited love that God has lavished upon all of us, impartially.

Everything we have belongs to Christ, and comes to us freely from him. Therefore we seek to give away what belongs to Jesus to the other people that he loves. We seek nothing in return, except that God be given the glory that HE deserves for making it all possible. All such service will be repaid at the resurrection, when we will have the thrill of seeing Jesus receive the glory for every good work we have done in his name.

The Pharisees claimed to be lovers of God. Jesus saw right through them, yet he used his knowledge of their motivations to lovingly point them toward the true greatness that is the product of genuine humility. His two lessons would have transformed the hear and life of any Pharisee who believed him, and taken his word to heart. It was not to be.

### APPLICATION:

Just as Jesus saw the Pharisees that night, he sees us today. Does he see pride, or humility in you?

Pride is a deadly spiritual poison. Humility is one of the crowning jewels of a Christ-like character. It leads to selfless service that finds its deepest joy in seeing Jesus receive the glory for making it all possible in the first place.

*What can you do to humble yourself more completely?*

*What forms of pride do you need to repudiate?*

*What specific, lowly place of service can you embrace today for Jesus' sake?*