

Luke 14:7

So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them:

† **Luke 14:8-11** *"When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Did you catch the last sentence in this parable? *"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* Reading that, what comes to mind is that, *"If you don't choose humbleness, you may experience humiliation."*

Most people don't like sitting in the front row at church. They choose to sit somewhere in the middle or in the back of the church, some to get lost in the crowd, others because they don't like being that close.

At one of the Calvary Chapels that I went to in Florida, it is a large church, and I loved being in the front row. Not because I thought I was all that, but because there were no seats in front of me, which means plenty of leg room, and I could see better. Even at concerts, I would always buy good seats and sit as close to the front as possible, once again, not that I thought I was anything, but more for the extra room and to see better.

I also remember a church that I went to in California, where the pastor had these young (20 something) guys who would always be around him, like it was his possie or something. I would see them and think they just wanted to be around him for who he was, and wanted to be a part of the in-crowd. But Jesus addresses this also when He went on to say after He spoke the parable that we just read, the following, *"When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."* **Luke 14:12-14**

It may look cool to hang with and know the pastor of your church, or even the worship team or elders in the church. But did you ever notice that Jesus did not hang with the in-crowd. Sure, the religious rulers and priests came to Jesus, but that was because they didn't like Jesus and they

were trying to stop the people from following Jesus. Why? Because when the people started following Jesus, they stopped following them, and they were losing their posse or their fan club to Jesus.

But those who the religious leaders rejected, in fact, were the exact people that Jesus hung out with, ***“invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.”*** It was like Jesus was rejecting those who thought they were something (The religious leaders) because they were the ones who wanted to ***“sit down in the best place”***

Jesus didn't hang with the in-crowd, but went to those who needed the love of the Father (GOD) and a kind word, and those who didn't feel worthy, the ones Jesus would have said, ***'Friend, go up higher.'*** You know, people like us when we were lost, or when we truly humble ourselves and not think we are all that, like the world thinks they are.

Jesus' half brother, James learned this from his big brother, Jesus when he said, ***“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*** James 4:10 Because he saw how Jesus treated others, and that was to lift up the humble and to put the proud in their place.

Jesus said, ***“But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”*** Matthew 9:13

The righteous are those who think they are all that, but the sinners are those who know they need a Savior, and Jesus calls them to dine with Him.

† **Revelation 3:20** ***Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.***

† **Luke 22:28-30 (NLT2)** ***You have stayed with me in my time of trial. And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***