



Today's Message

Date: June 20, 2021
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Seats of Honor*

Text: Luke 14:1–14 (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, 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. 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.”

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.”

Introduction: Jesus attended a Sabbath meal at the home of a prominent Pharisee. As soon as Jesus arrived, he performed a miracle to the consternation of the host and his friends. He then proceeded to tell a series of stories set against the backdrop of a feast, each aimed at the pride of the Pharisees. They teach us that Christ requires humility from all who come to him. Indeed, the selfish proud do not enter the kingdom. But Jesus promised to exalt all who humble themselves in repentant faith.

- I. The proud value their own opinion. 1-6**

- II. The proud assume their own importance. 7-11**

- III. The proud seek their own gain. 12-14**

Today's take-home truth: "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (14:11).