

The Parables of Jesus part 12

Various scriptures

"A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor." -Proverbs 29:23

In your opinion, what would you say is our top 3 struggles with pride?

*The desire to be _____

*Assuming we don't need _____

*Disregard for _____ especially the _____

Ultimately the remedy of a prideful heart is a heart of _____.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that in due time He may exalt you." -1 Peter 5:6

Parable of Invited Guest: Luke 14:7-14

Context:

Jesus has been invited to eat at the house of one of the top Pharisees on the sabbath day. There was also a man there who had been sick. In an attempt to trap Jesus for healing this man on a day when God commanded rest, Jesus finds a way to question their hearts about doing what is right. After healing the man and noticing how they scrambled for places of honor Jesus told the invited guest a parable to illustrate a valuable lesson about humility and pride.

The lesson of Humility: 8-11

*Don't assume a _____ position (8)

*Don't assume you are the most _____ person in the room (8)

Why does Jesus encourage them and us to take this approach?

To avoid _____ (9)

Humility Vs. Humiliation

Humility: is the quality of being humble; spiritually speaking it is to be _____ of our own sinfulness and weakness, and to feel our need of Jesus Christ. In the kingdom of heaven, humility is the foundation laid by Christ.

Humiliation: is to reduce someone to a lower position in one's own eyes; to make someone feel ashamed or embarrassed. While no one wants to be humiliated, we sometimes **put ourselves** in positions to endure it.

Not everyone has money to give away, time to spare, unlimited resources, gifts of speech, words of wisdom for teaching and preaching. Not everyone is a good manager or administrator. However we _____ can demonstrate a commitment to Christ by our humility! If you can't do anything else you can strive to be humble.

Notice what Jesus tells them to do....

*Go to the _____ seat (10)

*Allow the host to invite you to a _____ seat (10)

When we do what Jesus says, instead of being humiliated in the presence of others we will be honored and respected.

Principal stated in verse 11; "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Have you seen this principal play out in your life? How did you respond? What kind of impact did it have on how you view promotion and honor?

Lesson of pride: 12-14

Secondly Jesus addresses the one who invited him. Who did he tell him not to invite? (12)

*Friends

- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

Why?

*They will simply return the _____ *

Who does he tell him to invite? (13)

*Poor

- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

Why do you think Jesus told him to do this?

Remember what the Bible says...Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 10:42; James 2:15-1

He wanted him to have an _____ perspective. (14)

Parable of the large banquet: Luke 14:16-24

Context:

Same as before, Jesus is at the house of a top Pharisee. Jesus heals a man sick with dropsy. He corrects those jockeying for position/prestige. He corrects the host. Then suddenly in this moment, a man says, "Blessed is the one who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" In response to his statement Jesus tells this parable highlighting man's selfish pride.

The Event: (16-17)

A certain man was giving a large banquet and invited many...

*In those days it was the custom to send out invitations to such a dinner a long time in advance, but as the actual day arrived, a personal invitation was extended.

The Excuses: (18-20)

When the time came to extend the personal invitation they all had excuses.

✓ "I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. I ask you to excuse me."

What is wrong with this excuse?

✓ "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out. I ask you to excuse me."

What is wrong with this excuse?

✓ "I just got married, and therefore I'm unable to come."

What is wrong with this excuse?

What are some of the worst excuses you've heard?

"Excuses are made. They are fashioned for convenience and are clung to in desperation. Hope doesn't begin until excuses end." -Charles H. Spurgeon

The Executive Decisions: (21-24)

What was the master's first decision? Where was the servant told to go and who was he told to invite?

The _____ and _____ of the city.

The _____, maimed, _____, and lame

What was the master's second decision? Where else did he tell the servant to go and do?

The _____ and _____. (23)

Compel them to come; Greek definition to constrain with urgency or pressing necessity.

Notice the reason: "so that my _____ may be filled."

What was the master's third decision?

To permanently exclude those rejected him from _____ the banquet. (24)

In summary:

For the religious leaders this was a sobering message and reminder that Moses/Prophets was their first invitation. As God's chosen people they were expected to come. However when Jesus came they rejected the invite and made excuses. Because they were absorbed in earthly power and material things they forfeited their opportunity to come. As a result, Jesus went out and extended the invitation to the _____. John 3:16

According to Revelation 19:6-9 there will be nations attending the wedding feast of the Lamb. Sadly so many people are still making excuses about why they can't make it. In light of that, we who have Christ in us are to go out everywhere, to the city and country urging others to come to the great wedding feast the Lord our God has prepared.

As you reflect on this, what is the main thing we should fear with respect to attending the wedding feast in heaven?

What is one thing you have learned today that you are willing to share with someone else?

"Your devotion to God is illustrated, demonstrated and authenticated by your love for others." -Andy Stanley