



Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus
The Humble Guest

Luke 14:7-14

Lesson 10

This parable could be titled: "Jesus' Guide to Party Etiquette". Jesus confronts the attitudes prevalent in many homes as the list of those who will be invited is drafted. Our motive for sharing must be the praise of God and not the applause of men; the eternal reward in heaven and not the temporary recognition on earth. Jesus teaches the *best seat* in God's eyes is the lowly one.

OBSERVATION: Luke 14:7-14

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of this parable. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. As you mark key words, mark any personal pronouns or other words that refer to the key word (i.e. words used to refer to *Jesus* or those *invited* or *inviting*, etc.).
Key Words: words that refer to *Jesus*, those who were *invited*, those who did the *inviting*, *invited/ask*, *best/higher/exalted*, *lowest/humbles*, and *repay/repaid*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used two times in this parable. Mark each time this word is used. Choose one of the times this word is used. Record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.

4. The word *invited* is used in some form ten times (including ask) in this parable. Make a list of each time the word is used and what is taught.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. Have you ever been someplace and been asked to give your seat to someone else? What were some of your thoughts or reactions?
2. How does it feel to give a gift to someone who doesn't expect it?
3. When you are having a party, what are some of your goals? Be honest 😊

PRELUDE TO THE PARABLE: Read Luke 14:1-6

1. Most, if not all, of Jesus' parables were prompted by an event. Notice, the parable begins in verse 7 with the words, *So He told a parable to those who were invited*. That should prompt the question, "invited to what?" or "invited by whom". Where does verse 1 tell us Jesus *went to eat bread*?
 - a. Who was also present? verses 2,3 Note: *dropsy* is an old term describing a condition of having excessive fluids in the body.
2. Read the conversation and the reactions that followed as recorded in verses 3-6. Summarize what happened as you would relate the story to a friend.

3. Go back to the beginning of the story and record the last phrase of verse 1.
 - a. The words *watched Him closely* describe an insidious *watching*, a *watching* with the intent to ambush Jesus. Read Luke 6:7, 11:54, and 20:20 and state the goals of the religious leaders regarding Jesus.

Challenge: Read Psalm 64 and record the actions and the consequences of the *wicked*.

THE INVITEES: Read Luke 14:7-11

1. So Jesus told a parable to those who were invited... Observe that Jesus too was *watching*. However, a different word was used to describe Jesus' action. What did He do?
 - a. What do you think was the difference in the motives of the Pharisees and Jesus?
 - 1.) When you consider Jesus, do you view Him as *watching you closely* (as the Pharisees *watched*) or noting, as Jesus did those who *were invited*? Why?
2. According to verse 7, what did *those who were invited* do?
 - a. What are some examples of *choosing the best places* besides that of being at a dinner party?
3. What did Jesus instruct them to do?

verse 8: *do not sit down in the _____ place.*

verse 10: *go and sit _____ in the _____ place.*
4. Using verse 9, what could be the negative result of taking the *best place*?
 - a. Using verse 10, what could be the positive result of taking the *lowest place*?
 - b. What was Jesus' stern remark to the Pharisees in Luke 11:43?

5. Although there can be negative and positive results of our choices as to where we "sit", Jesus was teaching a lesson that is life changing. What does Luke 14:11 teach us?
- a. God has emphasized this truth through His Word. Write the following verses in your own words:
- Psalm 18:27
- Psalm 138:6
- Proverbs 18:12
- James 4:6
- b. How are *taking the best seats* and *pride* related?
- c. What does *taking the lowest seat* reveal about a person?

THE INVITORS: Read Luke 14:12-14

1. Jesus *then* turned and addressed the ruler of the Pharisees that invited Him to his house. Who did Jesus give as examples of people *not* to *invite*?
- a. What reason did Jesus give?
2. It's not that Jesus is teaching that we should not invite family or friends, but it should not be what we always do when we have a feast. What is the tendency for them to do when they accept an invitation? verse 12
- a. What is Jesus' concern according to James 2:1-6?

3. What do you think Jesus meant by His statement in Matthew 5:46?
4. Besides *inviting* our friends, relatives, and the rich, who are we to *invite*? Luke 14:13
 - a. Who might be examples of those we are to *invite*, as it relates to you?
 - b. The *poor* cannot *repay*. In what ways is it a blessing to do something for someone who cannot *repay* you?
5. Describe the attitude you think Jesus is looking for from one who would *invite* others?
 - a. What example did Jesus set for us? 2 Corinthians 8:7-9
 - 1.) What would following that example look like for a Christian today?

REPAYMENTS: Read Luke 14:14

1. Jesus promised that we would be blessed for *inviting* those who cannot *repay* us. What does Luke 14:14 promise?
 - a. Record the similar promises of:
Proverbs 19:17

Matthew 6:4
 - b. Why are the future rewards from God better than the benefits of this present world?

2. How might Matthew 10:42 relate to this parable?
3. What are some things you could do for those who cannot *repay* you?

REVIEW: Read Luke 14:7-14

1. What have you learned from this lesson about the importance of positions, titles, or other status symbols?
2. How have you been challenged to make "humble" choices?
 - a. What examples of taking the *lowest seat* do you intend to make?
3. What are some ways that you might bless or honor someone who has no means to repay you?

*Though the LORD is great, he cares for the humble,
but he keeps his distance from the proud.
- Psalm 138:6 NLT*

Observation Worksheet

Luke 14:7-14

So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸"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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." ¹²Then He also said to him who invited Him, "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. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."