

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 95. Jesus teaches about humility



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Luke 14:7-14

When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. (v8)

But when you are invited, take the lowest place. (v10a)

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (v11)

When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. (v12b-14a)

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

This passage is about humility - about not pushing ourselves ahead of others because we think we are better than they are. It is about treating others as we would wish to be treated.

The passage is in two sections. In the first part, Jesus sees how guests at a meal are choosing the places of honour at the table. He tells them a parable explaining that they should take the lower place, not the higher. Then they cannot be moved down by their host and may even be moved up. In the Old Testament, Proverbs 25:6-7 says much the same thing.

In the second part, Jesus says to His host that he should not always invite friends, family or even rich neighbours to his parties knowing that they will then invite him back. Instead, he should invite the poor and the disadvantaged who cannot invite him back. Doing that will bring blessing upon him. Proverbs 19:17 says, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done." Jesus is not saying that you should never invite close friends and family to meals, but that you should invite others as well - those who do not have the means to invite you back.

I know people who for many years have given up a family Christmas lunch in order to join with others and prepare a special meal for the homeless, or those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. All then eat together as equals and all agree that the blessings each one of them receives far outweigh the sacrifices they make.

The heartfelt song of praise in Luke 1, which Mary sang when she visited her cousin Elizabeth after hearing from an angel that she was to be the mother of Jesus, confirms that God does not want us to be proud. He honours the humble and fills the hungry with good things.

Humility is not about putting ourselves down but about raising others up.

### Reflections:

- Think of an occasion when you may have given something up but have ended up being glad that you did because it has brought happiness to someone else.
- Think of ways in which the world would be a better place if we all treated each other as we would like to be treated.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



# HUMILITY

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

