

Luke, Chapters 14-18

“It is a great paradox in Christianity that it makes humility the avenue to glory”. (source unknown)

humble: 1: not proud or haughty : not arrogant or assertive; 2: expressing a spirit of deference or submission; 3: ranking low in a hierarchy or scale : insignificant, unpretentious (Merriam-Webster)

Read Philippians 2:1-11

This is the ultimate biblical example of humility: Jesus, who being in very nature God, made himself physically known in our world. Here we see Christ’s self-emptying servant nature. He demonstrates that before honor comes humility. The cross comes before the crown; role modeling to us that the person who humbles himself (for the glory of God) will later be honored.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5)

“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

Chapter 14:7-14 – The Parable of the Wedding Feast / The Great Banquet (How ought we to view ourselves)

- Read Proverbs 25:6-7 - What instruction does this proverb (which the Pharisees would have known) give?
- What does this tell us about their self perceived standing amongst their fellow Jews, and with God?
- What words of instruction did Jesus have for the host of the meal? (Luke 6:32-34)

Chapter 15:11-24 – The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Through humility reconciliation occurs)

- v.12 – Unpack all that this request entails/possible ramifications. What kind of character does this show?
- v.17 – *“When he came to himself”* (“senses” – NIV) – Describe everything that phrase means. Can you relate?

Chapter 16:19-31 – The Rich Man and Lazarus (One day it will be too late to demonstrate humility)

- Lazarus means “He whom God helps”. This likely refers to Lazarus’ spiritual condition as well as his physical. What clue do we find in the passage that this is so?
- What does Abraham say is the reason for why the rich man is suffering? (Matthew 6:21)

Chapter 17:7-10 – Unworthy Servants (What reward/compensation do we expect as God’s faithful servants?)

- The Pharisees thought that if they lived a righteous life God owed them good things.
- In contrast, what is the point that Jesus is making? How does this serve as a warning to the disciples? To us?
- How does this address what our true motivation is supposed to be in serving Christ?

Chapter 18:9-14 - The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (A Warning to the self-righteousness)

- To whom did Jesus tell this parable? How did the Pharisee view the tax collector (and everyone else)? Why?
- Describe the physical actions as well as the vocabulary of the two men. How did their approach differ?
- Is it possible to be a practitioner of such Pharisaic behavior without awareness?

(Lamentations 3:40, Psalm 139:23-24)