

3-2018

The Parables of Jesus Christ: On Being a Winner at the Banquet Dinner

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Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "The Parables of Jesus Christ: On Being a Winner at the Banquet Dinner" (2018). *The Second Person File*. 216.

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE TWENTY-EIGHT: On Being a Winner at the Banquet Dinner (Lk. 14:7-14)

SURVEY

Jesus gives advice to both guest and host in regard to a banquet dinner.

- To the guest

1. Negative:

"And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them. When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room." (Lk. 14:7-9)

2. Positive:

"But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Lk. 14:10-11)

- To the host

1. Negative:

"Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee." (Lk. 14:12)

2. Positive:

"But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." (Lk. 14:13-14)

SIGNIFICANCE

This is the second of two parables which followed a miracle Jesus had just performed. For the first, see #10.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Warren Wiersbe writes:

"Jesus had watched the guests assemble and fight for the best seats. The Pharisees always wanted the best seats at the feasts (Mt. 23:6), and their guests followed their bad example. We laugh at this, but the same mad scramble goes on today. There are more status seekers and pyramid climbers in churches and other Christian organizations than we care to admit. The competition can be strong as Christians argue over who has the greatest church, the biggest Sunday School, or the most sacrificial missionary program. This mad scramble for the top seats only shows how false is our view of success. As if where a man sits can change the man! Paul sat in a prison while Nero sat on the throne of the Roman Empire, yet no one doubts who was the better man." (*Meet Yourself in the Parables*, Victor Books, Wheaton, Ill., 1979, pp. 93-94)

- Both James and Peter would write concerning this very thing:

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble ... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:6, 10).

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." (1 Pet. 5:5-6)

- Two of Jesus' disciples once fell victim of this "scramble-for-supper-seats" syndrome as seen by the following passage:

"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared." (Mk. 10:35-40)

- According to John the Apostle, Diotrephes was guilty of this:

"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not." (3 John 9)