

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

September 1, 2013
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 126

Gospel Lk 14:1, 7-14

On a Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



2013

Spiritual Reflection

In a Congregational Church in Idaho has the most unusual statue-if you can call it that. Long time church member Gert Rizzoli left instructions that upon her death she was to be embalmed and covered in bronze and then placed in "her seat" in the Church. I am a person of habit and I like sitting in the same place over and over but I think that when I die I will be fine with someone taking my place. I also know that part of the reason why I like sitting in the same place whether it be at Church or in a classroom is that I like routine and it gives me a sense of comfort. From time to time though I challenge myself to think that maybe we are not supposed to be so comfortable at Church. Can you imagine what the situation might have been like in today's Gospel if half the people listened to Jesus' advice. How many of them met someone new for the first time or found themselves sitting with someone with ideas that differ from their own? What would our Church be like if we would willingly get out of our comfort zone and instead of seeking the place that makes us feel comfortable we chose to focus more on the people in the Church?

Spiritual Question

1. What spiritual routines could possibly get in your way to holiness?
2. Where do you sit at Church and why?
3. Who do you help? Is it only people who help you?
4. How can you better serve others?
5. How can you get to know your fellow parishioners better?

