



September 1 2019 // 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 every one 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."

Spiritual Reflection: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." - C. S. Lewis. When I am in a gathering of people, if I am not careful, I can find myself searching for my friends instead of looking to see if there is someone who may be in need of a friend.

Spiritual Questions

1. What besides pride might have motivated the Pharisees?
2. How can climbing the social ladder lead you away from God?
3. How can you think of yourself less?
4. How often do you look to find ways to help other people in new situations?
5. How does humility and trust in God work together.