

## Humiliation or Humility Luke 14:7-14

ETS: Jesus warned against pride because it will ultimately result in humiliation.

ESS: We live in humility before God and let Him do the exalting.

OSS: I want people to know why we are to live in humility.

PQ: Will you humble yourself now before God or be humiliated later by God?

UW: Humility

ME

Have you ever been humiliated?

- Have you been **laughed at** by people in public?
- Have you insisted a **problem** couldn't be fixed and a co-worker immediately solved the problem?

What do I mean by "Humiliated"?

- Someone said something that **embarrassed** you
- Something happened that made you feel **ashamed**

**Taylor Swift** is at the top of her game and is packing out stadiums with people paying huge amounts of money to see her.

- Fans of Taylor Swift are called “**Swifties**”

She is a great **songwriter**

- One of the **critiques** about Taylor Swift is that if you **date her** and then break up, *she'll write a hit song about you!*
- **John Mayer** says that he was “**really humiliated**” by Taylor Swift’s **song “Dear John,”** which the country-pop star allegedly wrote about him. “**It made me feel terrible,**” Mayer says in the new issue of Rolling Stone, on newsstands Friday. “**Because I didn’t deserve it. I’m pretty good at taking accountability now, and I never did anything to deserve that. It was a really lousy thing for her to do.**”
  - Lyrics: “Dear John, I see it all, now it was wrong / Don’t you think 19 is too young to be played by your dark twisted games, when I loved you so?” Swift sings on the tune, a staple of her live set.
- According to Mayer he learned about Swift’s feelings directly from her song. “**I never got an e-mail. I never got a phone call,**” he says. “**I was really caught off-guard, and it really humiliated me at a time when I’d already been dressed down. I mean, how would you**

feel if, at the lowest you've ever been, someone kicked you even lower?"

Maybe you've said: "I've never felt so humiliated in all my life"

- Maybe the teacher asked for an answer and you gave the wrong answer and everyone started laughing at you in class?

Recent Headlines "Putin has been humiliated"

- Why? Because they still haven't taken Ukraine
  - Obviously, the Russian military is not as powerful as we were led to believe.

WE

No one wants to be Humiliated!

- When you are humiliated you lose your sense of pride, dignity and self-respect
- When you are humiliated, you want to disappear and crawl into a hole

No one wants be...

- Laughed at in front of other people
- Told to sit in the Back of the Bus

# GOD

## Turn to **Luke 14**

### Background:

- It is the Sabbath
- Jesus is at dinner at a “**leading Pharisees’**” house
  - How many dinners?
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Dinner:** Luke 7:36-50: Jesus is invited to eat dinner at a Pharisee’s house

At this point, the Pharisees are trying to figure out Jesus

- **Luke 5:21** “**Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?**”
- **Luke 5:20** “**Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?**”
- **Luke 6:2** “**Why are you doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?**”

The Pharisees are CONFUSED

- Jesus is doing only things that the Prophets did (i.e., heal the sick)
  - But he is doing it on a much larger scale and more varied (“All kinds of diseases”
    - He is raising more people from the dead
    - He is performing “Long distant” healings

- YET, Jesus is NOT CONFORMING to what they THOUGHT the Messiah would be
  - Not a trained Rabbi
  - Not from Jerusalem
  - Not observing the “traditions” that the Pharisees and other had established

So, in **Luke 7** a Pharisee named **Simon** invites Jesus over to eat

- An uninvited woman comes in and begins washing Jesus’ feet with her hair
  - Jesus forgives a woman sinner of her sins

Pharisee CONFUSION CONTINUES

- “Who is this man who forgives sins?” (Luke 7:49)

Jesus continues ministry

- Crowds are getting much larger
- Begins teaching in parables
- Jesus is “ramping up” His ministry and casting out demons in many cities
  - The 12 are sent out to proclaim the gospel and also cast out demons and heal
  - The 70 are sent out to proclaim the gospel and also cast out demons and heal

The Pharisees go from “Confused” into **ATTACK** mode

- Jesus is invited to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dinner at a Pharisees house

**Luke 11:37-53**

- This pharisee is never named, which may indicate he was hostile to Jesus and was trying to trap Him.
  - There were also “experts in the law” at the dinner too.

Jesus goes into ATTACK mode against the Pharisees and the “experts in the law”

- Pronounces 6 “woes” of judgment
- **Luke 11:53-54** “When he left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to oppose him fiercely and to cross-examine him about many things; 54 they were lying in wait for him to trap him in something he said.

Then Jesus begins to shift His ministry from Galilee south toward Jerusalem

- Jesus continues to attack the religious leaders
  - He calls them “hypocrites” in **Luke 8**
  - He tells parables that are clearly implicating that His people are rejecting Him
  - He again heals on the Sabbath (Luke 13)

In **Luke 13**, as Jesus is nearing Jerusalem, “some of the Pharisees” attempt to “scare” Jesus away

- They tell Jesus that Herod “wants to kill you”
  - Jesus is not intimidated and states He has a plan to fulfill, which involves going to Jerusalem.

Since they cannot SCARE Jesus away, they decide to try a 3<sup>rd</sup> dinner

They use this dinner to lay a Trap

- **Luke 14:1** “One Sabbath, when he went in to eat at the house of one of the leading Pharisees, they were watching him closely.”
  - **TRAP:** the dinner is on the Sabbath
    - Jesus had a habit of healing on the Sabbath—which was a “no no” according to the Pharisee’s traditions.
  - **TRAP:** The dinner is at the house of “one of the leading Pharisees”
    - The first two dinners were at the homes of just “a Pharisee”, but this one was a top-level Pharisee’s house.
      - Who do you think is going to be at this dinner?
        - Top-level religious leaders!
  - **TRAP:** “They were watching Him closely”

Do you think Jesus knew this was a “TRAP” YES!

When we had the raccoon in our building, Roger brought over a couple of traps

- These traps have a one-way door - The animal can get into it but not get out.

How do you get a raccoon to enter the trap? BAIT!

- We put one of the traps in the ceiling and we put marshmallows around it and inside the trap.
  - The raccoon ate the marshmallows and they led it into the trap and we got it!

Jesus’ “TRAP” is set, now all they need is the bait

- **Luke 14:2** “There in front of him was a man whose body was swollen with fluid.”

Not going to reproach Jerome’s sermon, but you know that Jesus heals the man

- In **verse 4**, it says that after healing the man, Jesus “sent him away.”
  - I think that detail is there to show us that this man was NOT an invited guest, but was brought in to be BAIT to see if Jesus would again heal on the Sabbath—which He did.



- Jesus confronts them about their lack of compassion, but BEFORE a debate breaks out, Jesus tells a “Parable”

### WHY does Jesus tell a parable and NOT debate the Sabbath?

- Because the parable reveals what is in their hearts

### **Luke 14:7** “He told a parable to those who were invited,

- This seems to bolster the fact that some were “invited” (i.e., the friends of the leading pharisee and others were not: **the man swollen with fluid**).
- Jesus is speaking to the “**invited**” guests in general
  - Which were presumably TOP LEVEL religious leaders

when he noticed how they (the “*invited*” guests) would choose the best places for themselves:

- *Presumably this does NOT include Jesus*
- These TOP LEVEL religious leaders are all competing for the best seats at the table
  - They are probably trying to get as close to the “**Leading pharisee**” who invited them to hear what he had to say
    - They wanted a **front-row seat** to the **grilling** they thought Jesus was about to receive.

Jesus' parable: **Luke 14:8** "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, don't sit in the place of honor, (WHY?) because a more distinguished person than you may have been invited by your host.

- REALITY: You don't know whom the host has invited!
- REALITY: The guests at the banquet do not all have the same position

**Luke 14:9** The one who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then **in humiliation**, you will proceed to take the lowest place."

Have you ever been humiliated?

When I first started to learn how to play the organ, our church has a Watchnight Service and I was invited to play

- A "Watchnight service" was one where we met on New Year's Eve, played games, ate and worshipped until Midnight.

I had only been playing a few months, but I agreed to play a hymn

- That night a TV crew came in to do a segment on our Watchnight service

- When I started to play (I was very nervous), the TV camera lights came on, and I started playing the hymn as fast as I could
  - I finished the song and was humiliated
    - I wanted to leave the building that night

(That should have been a good clue that music was not to be a career for me, but I was too stubborn to stop)

### Have you ever been humiliated?

- Nothing is worse than being humiliated!
  - When you are humiliated, you want to **crawl under a rock or get out of the situation!**
    - You feel **embarrassed**
    - You feel **shamed**
  - **EVERYONE** seems to be watching as the host asks you to get up from the front of the table and move to the rear so **SOMEONE ELSE** can take your place!

It is possible that what Jesus described happened at the dinner.

- Maybe Jesus saw the host ask a few people to get up from their seats and move further down on the table!

**Luke 14:10** “But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ You will then **be honored** in the presence of all the other guests.”

- That is clearly the BEST and SAFEST way to avoid being humiliated

What does it involve? **HUMILITY!**

- It requires ALLOWING the HOST to elevate you
- It requires SITTING in an area you think is BENEATH you!
  - It is the “**lowest place**” instead of the “**place of honor**”

You have a choice:

**Be Humble or Be Humiliated By God**

WHY should we live in humility?

- What is the BENEFIT for HUMILITY?

**Luke 14:11** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Jesus repeats this phrase in Luke 18:14)

Would you say that the message coming out of the MEDIA is to live in HUMILITY? NO

- We live in an era of self-celebration
  - People want to be “Social influences”
  - Get-rich schemes are everywhere
  - We are told that “Your truth” is “THE TRUTH”
  - We are told its YOUR BODY so if **God made a mistake** and put you in the wrong body, you should be able to mutilate it

WHAT is Humility?

- Most think humility = weakness and indecisiveness
  - So, to be a humble woman means you are “Weak” and controlled by others.

Would you say Jesus was HUMBLE? YES!

- What does Jesus teach us about HUMILITY?

Just a few verses earlier some Pharisees tried to scare Jesus by telling Him that “Herod is coming to kill you.”

- Did Jesus run? No!
  - Jesus stood His ground
- Did Jesus call Herod out? Yes!
  - Jesus called Him “That fox”
- Did Jesus stop His ministry? No
  - He continued to Jerusalem

Do you think Jesus knew He was walking into a TRAP at this dinner at a “Leading Pharisees” house? Yes!

- Did Jesus know the Pharisees were want to trap Him? Yes!
- Had Jesus backdown in His criticism of the Pharisees? No!

Humility does **NOT** equal **weakness!**

Humility does **NOT** equal **indecisiveness**

Did Jesus try to stop crowds from coming out to hear Him speak? NO.

- Humility does **NOT** equal **fear of recognition** by others!

What does Jesus teach us about HUMILITY?

- Jesus teaches us that HUMILITY is SUBMISSION!
  - **Luke 12:49-50** “I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already set ablaze! 50 *But I have a baptism to undergo, and how it consumes me until it is finished!*”
    - What was the “Baptism” Jesus had to undergo?
      - He had already been baptized back in **Luke 3**

- The “Baptism” Jesus had to “undergo” was the CROSS!

Jesus was in SUBMISSION to GOD’S PLAN

- From **Luke 9** forward, He tells the disciples the PLAN and that He must accomplish it.

WHY did Jesus SUBMIT?

- Isn’t Jesus God? YES!
  - Jesus was “**God in the Flesh**”
    - Jesus took on human flesh and SUBMITTED Himself to the PLAN.

**PROBLEM:** Because of our CHOICE to REBEL against God we cannot have a RELATIONSHIP with Him

- Our **REBELLION** makes us an “**ENEMY**” of God
- Our **REBELLION** creates a **BARRIER** between US and God because God is Holy and We are not!

**PROBLEM:** GOD **loves** us, but our **REBELLION SEPARATES** us from GOD

**PROBLEM:** GOD’S **JUSTICE** demands that we **PAY** for our Sins

HOW can God satisfy His LOVE and JUSTICE?

- **SOLUTION:** He would become a **human**, and **live a sinless life**, and **die** for the sins of humanity.
  - His blood would satisfy His **JUSTICE**
  - His sacrifice is enough to **pay** the **debt** against His justice
  - **ANYONE** who asks for Him to apply His death to pay for his/her debt would be **DELIVERED** from the **WRATH** God's Justice demands.
    - In other words, Jesus' death covers the debt of whoever asks for help.

For this PLAN to be carried out, the second person of the Trinity (JESUS) was to be born as a human, live a sinless life, and die on the cross shedding His blood for our sins.

What did that plan require? HUMILITY!

- Jesus had to walk alongside His rebellious creatures
- Jesus had to allow His creatures to test Him and torture Him
- Jesus had to allow His creatures to crucify Him

HUMILITY is SUBMISSION

For us, Humility is....

- It is **recognizing** there are those over you
- It is **recognizing** you are not **"God's gift to humanity"**



- It is **recognizing** you are not **perfect**
- It is **recognizing** you do not have all the answers
- It is **recognizing** that you make mistakes

Humility is NOT WEAKNESS

Humility is NOT living in FEAR

## **Be Humble or Be Humiliated By God**

Look at what Jesus, who is the ultimate picture of humility, does next: **Luke 14:12** “He also said to the one who had invited him....

- Jesus is talking to “the host”—the “**leading Pharisee**”
  - He turns to the BIG DOG in the room and talks directly to him and put him on the spot!

“When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, (WHY) because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid.”

- Of course, this is EXACTLY what this Leading Pharisee would do!
  - He wasn’t going to invite the “**Sinners**” or “**tax collectors**” to his house
    - That would HURT his **REPUTATION!**

- “THOSE PEOPLE most likely **couldn’t** return the **FAVOR**
  - There would be **NOTHING TO GAIN** by inviting THOSE PEOPLE!
- Remember, this man probably did not become “**The leading Pharisee**” without playing POLITICS to climb the RELIGIOUS COOPERATE LADDER
  - He didn’t have the time to invest in THOSE PEOPLE
- Jesus distinguishes “**your RICH neighbors**” as opposed to just “**neighbors**”
  - WHY? Because only the Pharisee’s “**Rich neighbors**” would be of any benefit to him!

Remember, the only reason the man “**swollen with fluid**” was there was to TRAP Jesus.

- The “**swollen man**” was brought in as “**BAIT**”
  - The pharisees had no **personal INTEREST** in that man
- He was not part of the “**invited**” **guests** who were to have a seat at the table

**Luke 14:13** “On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind.”

- Jesus is telling this “**leading Pharisee**” **WHAT TO DO!**

- Here is the most HUMBLE man (Jesus) BOLDLY telling this LEADER what he should do!
  - Humility is NOT WEAKNESS or SHYNESS!
  - Humility often involved COURAGE

WHY does Jesus tell this “leading Pharisee” what to do?

- **Luke 14:14** “And you will be blessed”
  - Jesus is giving this man the recipe for “Blessing”!

WHY would he be “Blessed”? “because they cannot repay you.”

- THAT doesn’t sound like a “BLESSING”
  - That is NOT how you CLIMB the RELIGIOUS CORPORATE LADDER!
    - That means you are “inviting” people for what you can get out of them or so you can use them!
      - That means you are inviting people to SERVE them – to give them a good meal—which they may not have access to!

Jesus then states that there IS PAYMENT, but it is LATER:  
“for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

GOD does not call us to do MINISTRY without REWARD, but our REWARD is not in this life!

In my early years, I had an expectation that if you did something for the community, they'd respond and come to church, but I learned that is not what always (or usually) happens.

- So why do ministry outreaches?

Let's face it, clothing closet is probably the most difficult ministry we currently have.

- Our wonderful team often comes in on Tuesdays to fold, sort, and prepare the clothing racks for Wednesday.
- Then we give out clothing on Wednesday.
  - This week we had a record 42 people we helped
    - So far, we've been able to help almost 250 people with clothing!

It is easy to say “We will do this ministry to grow the church” but I've learned that is WRONG THINKING.

- We don't **sacrifice time** and **space** to give out clothing to grow WBC, *we do it to minister to our community.*
  - *We do it to help people who need clothing.*

Our **Blessing Box team** doesn't stop by to stock the box throughout the week so that people will come to WBC, we do it to help the homeless and the downtrodden who need emergency food.

Starting in **Luke 12**, Jesus began focusing on the FUTURE

- One theme: There is going to be a FUTURE RECKONING
  - For some: it will be a future of punishment
  - For others: it will be a future of reward

FUTURE PUNISHMENT:

- Those who deny Jesus before others (Luke 12:9)
- Those who focus on earthly wealth (Luke 12:13-21)
- Those who are not ready when Christ returns (Luke 12:35-40)
- Those who refuse to repent and get right with God (Luke 12:57-59)
- Those who refuse to repent (Luke 13:1-9)
- Those who refuse to enter through the narrow way (Luke 13:22-30)
- Those who refuse to accept Jesus as the Messiah (Luke 13:34-35)

WHY would people refuse these things? PRIDE!

## WHAT will their pride get them in the end?

### HUMILIATION!

- Even the Jews, who were God's chosen people, if they refused to HUMBLE themselves and respond to Jesus as their Messiah, they would be HUMILIATED!

### FUTURE REWARD for the HUMBLE:

- Acknowledge by Christ before the angels in heaven (Luke 12:8)
  - Talk about being moved to a "seat of honor!"
- Comfort by the Holy Spirit in times of trial (Luke 12:12)
- Provision by God of your needs (Luke 12:31)
- Part in the Kingdom of God (Luke 12:32)
- Share in the Banquet of God (Luke 13:29)
- Move to a place of honor (Luke 13:30)

Jesus has been telling us about the benefits of HUMBLY following Him, and He gives us a definite **MARKER**: "for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

- First time Jesus refers to a "resurrection" in Luke

## WHEN is the "resurrection of the righteous"?

- The "resurrection of the righteous" occurs at the second coming of Christ.

- When Jesus comes back to exact vengeance on the earth, the **“Dead in Christ will rise first”** (1 Thess 4:13)
  - **Rev. 20:5-6** **“This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.”**

How will we be **“repaid”** for HUMBLY walking with God?

- **“they will reign with him for a thousand years.”**
  - That 1,000 years is when the Kingdom of God is **“On earth as it is in heaven.”**

If you are going to follow Christ, you may be HUMILIATED!

- Mocked for believing in a **“Sky Daddy”**
- Mocked for believing **Jesus** is a real person who lived and died for our sins
- Mocked for study a book that is **2,000 years old**
- Mocked for believing God created us **“male and female”**
- Mocked for submitting our lives to God
- Mocked because we believe God created the world

If you are going to follow Christ, you may be laughed at and scorned

## **Be Humble or Be Humiliated by God**

*Better to be mocked and scorned by humans, than to be humiliated by God!*

YOU

**PQ:** Will you humble yourself now before God or be humiliated later by God?

Jesus gave the “**Leading Pharisee**” a choice  
Jesus gives you a choice: Humility or Humiliation

WE