

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
Presbyterian Church

### “JESUS’ AIM FOR GENUINE HUMILITY”

For individual study or group discussion

*Dinner for Schmucks* is a 2010 movie that tells the story of rising executive Tim Conrad (Paul Rudd) who works for a boss that hosts monthly dinner parties for the executives at his firm. At these “dinners for idiots,” the person who brings the biggest “schmuck” as their guest gets the promotion. At first, Tim declines the heartless dinner invitation. But after a chance encounter with Barry Speck (Steve Carrell), a man who builds dioramas using dead, stuffed mice, Tim invites Barry to the dinner party. By the end of the movie, Tim and Barry become friends, and Tim confronts his sadistic boss despite the threat it poses to his career.

In Luke 14:1-14 we encounter a similar dinner party at the house of a Pharisee. The ruler has invited a man with dropsy (a severe swelling of bodily tissues). We can surmise from other passages that the Pharisees probably do not care about this man’s suffering. More than likely he is being used as bait to ensnare Jesus. From last week’s passage, we learned that Jesus is neither afraid of death (Luke 13:31-33) nor is he afraid in today’s passage to take the bait in the Pharisees’ trap. He has his own objective: *Jesus aims to teach genuine humility by uncovering prideful additions to the law as well as prideful posturing for self-promotion.*

**Jesus aims at genuine humility for the sake of real people by uncovering our prideful additions to the law (vv. 1-6).**

The Pharisees are a group of religious leaders eager to keep the law so that all could see their righteousness. They are always watching Jesus closely for any sign of unorthodoxy. But wherever Jesus goes, he turns things upside down. Luke 14:1-14 is not different. Invited to a dinner party with a room full of Pharisees eager to find fault with him, he quickly redirects the focus with one question that exposes their hearts of pride and hypocrisy (v. 3).

- Read Mark 2:27. What is the purpose of the Sabbath? (cf. Isaiah 58)
- Are the Pharisees concerned for the physical well-being of the man they invited to the dinner? What is their main concern, according to Luke 14:1?
- What is the main concern of Jesus? (See also Matthew 12:9-12.)

**Jesus aims at genuine humility for the sake of real people by uncovering our prideful posturing for self-promotion (vv. 7-14).**

During the dinner party, Jesus shares two parables that warn against pride and self-promotion. Through “The Parable of the Wedding Feast” and “The Parable of the Great Banquet,” Jesus aims to teach genuine humility. According to theologian J.C. Ryle: *“Humility may well be called the queen of the Christian graces. To know our own sinfulness and weakness, and to feel our need of Christ—is the start of saving religion. Do you want to know the root and spring of humility? One word describes it. The root of humility is right knowledge: the person who really knows himself and his own heart, who knows God and his infinite majesty and holiness, who knows Christ and the price at which he was redeemed—that person will never be a proud person.”*<sup>1</sup>

- Read Proverbs 25:6-7. Since the Pharisees were teachers of the law, they would have been familiar with this Proverb. What does this tell us about their attitude toward God’s Word? Seek to live Romans 12:10.

DATE: October 22, 2023

SPEAKER: Brian/John Mark

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 14:1-14

## Family Dinner Table

### Pride vs. Humility

*taken from Kids of Integrity*

“There are advantages and disadvantages to being famous or popular. Certainly it is fun to be invited to parties and to have other people give you a lot of attention. But one of the disadvantages is that popularity can tempt people to begin to think too highly of themselves. If you are always the center of attention it is easy to start thinking, ‘Everybody likes me so much; I must be pretty special.’ Even if we are not famous, there are still ways that the sin of pride can sneak up on us. For example, if we are very good at a particular sport or activity, we can start to feel proud of ourselves. Another way we can be prideful is when we start to compare ourselves to others, judging the sin we see in their lives. Pride is like the black paper on our glasses, because it ‘blinds’ us from seeing our own sinfulness. Just as popularity can ‘blind’ famous people from seeing that everyone is as valuable as they are, so pride makes us unable to see our own faults. If we are proud of our own righteousness (thinking we are someone special), we fool ourselves. The Bible tells us that nobody is righteous and that we all have sinned. Each of us is to be concerned only about our own actions. God doesn’t want us to judge others for their actions. Instead, he wants us to look at and evaluate our own hearts. The Bible also tells us that we should let others praise us, rather than praising ourselves.”<sup>2</sup>

- Read John 12:41-43. Talk about what it means to desire the praise of men. Contrast this with Philippians 2:5-8.

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Unity Fund, denominational partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Lifeway Mission International, world missions partner

<sup>1</sup> Ryle, J. C. *Jesus at a Pharisee’s House: Luke 14:1-14*. Luke Chapter 14. <https://gracegems.org/Ryle/l14.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Focus on the Family. 2022, August 29. *Humility*. Kids of Integrity. <https://kidsofintegrity.com/lesson/humility/>