



### Luke 14:1,7-14

1 On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. 7 He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 8 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, 9 and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. 10 No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

12 Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. 13 No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; 14 that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

Other readings: Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20,28-29 Psalm 67 (68) Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24

This gospel illustrates how Jesus, as an astute teacher, used the situations in which he found himself to challenge people. In this case his teaching is about the right attitude to have as a guest, and as a host. It is not surprising that the Old Testament reading chosen to reflect the gospel is from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, one of the so-called Wisdom books. These books do not hesitate to give direct advice about the way to behave properly. The reading from Ecclesiasticus today is about humility.

Jesus takes up the traditions of the Jewish teachers of wisdom. So what is new about his teaching here? He brings with him the traditional teaching and confirms it, but he also lives it, not simply by his own everyday behaviour, but by going to the lowest place in accepting his martyrdom on the cross. These apparently mundane teachings, which are set during his journey to Jerusalem to face death, remind us of his willingness to be the servant of all and to give up his life. As he makes his way to Jerusalem the servant Jesus teaches us how to be truly servants, and the humble Jesus teaches us how to be truly humble. For the Christian there is nothing too mundane, no activity which cannot benefit from the light of faith. For the Christian there is no person who does not deserve the gift of our hospitality, the gift of our love.

*Do I endeavour to shed the light of faith on all my actions and decisions?*

*Do I strive for true humility in my attitudes and behaviour?*

*Let us pray for a heart that is welcoming towards those who are rejected and ill-treated.*

*Let us pray that despite our weakness we may one day take our place at the wedding feast of God.*