

Luke 14:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

Analysis

Jesus presents the alternative: 'But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.' Instead of presuming honor, choose 'the lowest room' (ἔσχατον τόπον, eschaton topon, the last place). Then the host may invite you: 'Friend, go up higher' (Φίλε, προσανάβηθι ἀνώτερον, Phile, prosanabēthi anōteron). The result: 'thou shalt have worship' (δόξα, doxa, glory/honor) 'in the presence of them that sit at meat' (ἐνώπιον πάντων τῶν συνανακειμένων, enōpion pantōn tōn synanakeimenōn). Humility leads to honor—not self-sought but graciously bestowed.

Historical Context

This teaching directly contradicts worldly wisdom that says to seize opportunities, promote yourself, and grab what you can. Kingdom wisdom teaches the opposite—humble yourself, serve others, wait for God's exaltation. This principle appears throughout Scripture: 'Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up' (James 4:10); 'Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time' (1 Peter 5:6). Jesus Himself modeled this,

humbling Himself to death on a cross, wherefore God highly exalted Him (Philippians 2:5-11). The path to glory is through humiliation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this parable illustrate the gospel principle that exaltation comes through humiliation?
2. What is the difference between false humility (performed for recognition) and genuine humility (rooted in proper self-assessment before God)?
3. How should this teaching shape Christian ambitions regarding ministry, career, and life goals?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ὅταν κεκληκώς πορευθεὶς ἀνάπεσον εἰς τὸν
But when he that bade go and sit down in G3588
G235 G3752 G2564 G4198 G377 G1519

ἔσχατον τόπον ἵνα ὅταν ἔλθῃ ὁ κεκληκώς σε
the lowest room that when cometh he that bade thee
G2078 G5117 G2443 G3752 G2064 G3588 G2564 G4571

εἶπη σοι Φίλε προσανάβηθι ἀνώτερον· τότε ἔσται
he may say shalt thou Friend go up higher then have
G2036 G4671 G5384 G4320 G511 G5119 G2071

σοι δόξα ἐνώπιον τῶν συνανακειμένων σοι
shalt thou worship in the presence of them that sit at meat shalt thou
G4671 G1391 G1799 G3588 G4873 G4671

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:33 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

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