

Luke 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Analysis

This principle appears multiple times in Luke's Gospel (18:14) and throughout Scripture, establishing a divine law that operates in both earthly and eternal realms. The Greek words 'hupsoō' (exalt) and 'tapeinoō' (humble) are theological terms describing both self-promotion versus self-abasement and God's action of elevation versus demotion. This teaching follows Jesus' parable about seeking the lowest place at a feast, applying spiritual truth through common social situations. The passive voice 'shall be abased' and 'shall be exalted' indicates God's sovereign action, teaching that ultimate vindication comes from Him alone, not self-promotion.

Historical Context

Spoken at a Pharisee's dinner where Jesus observed guests seeking places of honor, this teaching subverted the honor-shame culture of first-century Judaism where social status and seating arrangements carried enormous significance. Jesus transformed a common social scenario into an eternal spiritual principle.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what areas of your life are you seeking to exalt yourself rather than trusting God to vindicate you?
2. How does this principle challenge contemporary culture's emphasis on self-promotion and personal branding?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	πᾶς	ὁ	ὑψωθήσεται	ἑαυτὸν	ταπεινῶν	καὶ	ὁ
For	whosoever	G3588	exalteth	himself	he that humbleth	and	G3588
G3754	G3956		G5312	G1438	G5013	G2532	
ταπεινῶν	ἑαυτὸν	ὑψωθήσεται					
he that humbleth	himself	exalteth					
G5013	G1438	G5312					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 18:14 (Parallel theme): I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Proverbs 29:23 (Parallel theme): A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Matthew 23:12 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

James 4:6 (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 18:12 (Parallel theme): Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Psalms 138:6 (Parallel theme): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

James 4:10 (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Isaiah 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Psalms 18:27 (Parallel theme): For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

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