

Luke 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

Analysis

Jesus begins the parable: 'When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him.' The setting is 'a wedding' (γάμους, gamous), a joyful celebration requiring careful social navigation. Jesus advises: don't assume 'the highest room' (πρωτοκλισίαν, prōtoklisiān, the place of honor). The reason: 'lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden' (μήποτε ἐντιμότερός σου ἢ κεκλημένος ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, mēpote entimoteros sou ē keklēmenos hyp' autou). Presuming honor you haven't been granted risks public humiliation. This practical wisdom has spiritual application—don't presume status before God based on merit or achievement.

Historical Context

Wedding feasts in first-century Palestine lasted multiple days and involved elaborate hospitality. Honor and shame dynamics governed social interactions—being elevated brought honor; being demoted brought shame. The parable's scenario was realistic and familiar to Jesus' audience. On a deeper level, the wedding feast imagery connects to messianic banquet themes throughout Scripture (Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 22:1-14, Revelation 19:9). Jesus Himself is the bridegroom (Mark 2:19), and the kingdom is portrayed as a wedding celebration. Who receives honor at God's feast is determined by divine grace, not human presumption.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the wedding feast imagery connect to kingdom themes and the believer's relationship with Christ?
2. What does presuming honor without invitation teach about self-righteousness and merit-based religion?
3. How should this parable shape Christian attitudes toward position, recognition, and advancement in the church?

Interlinear Text

Ὅταν κεκλημένος ὑπ' τινος εἰς γάμους μὴ κατακλιθῆς

When **bidden** **of** **any** **in** **a wedding** **not** **down**
G3752 G2564 G5259 G5100 G1519 G1062 G3361 G2625

εἰς τὴν πρωτοκλισίαν μήποτε ἐντιμότερός σου

in G3588 **the highest room** **lest** **a more honourable man** **than thou**
G1519 G4411 G3379 G1784 G4675

ἢ κεκλημένος ὑπ' αὐτοῦ

be **bidden** **of** **him**
G5600 G2564 G5259 G846

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