

# Luke 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

## Analysis

Jesus describes the consequence: 'And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.' The host arrives and publicly redirects you: 'Give this man place' (δὸς τούτῳ τόπον, dos toutō topón). The result is shame—'thou begin with shame' (τότε ἀρξη μετὰ αἰσχύνης, tote arxē meta aischynēs) 'to take the lowest room' (τὸν ἔσχατον τόπον κατέχειν, ton eschaton topón katechein). Public demotion multiplies humiliation. What began as self-promotion ends in disgrace. This illustrates the principle: 'whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased' (v. 11). The parable warns against presumption while pointing to deeper spiritual truth—those who claim righteousness based on merit will be rejected.

## Historical Context

Public shame was devastatingly powerful in honor-shame cultures. Being demoted at a feast would damage one's reputation and social standing permanently. Jesus uses this fear to motivate humility, but His deeper concern is spiritual—those who presume standing before God based on religious achievement, ethnic privilege, or moral performance will face ultimate shame at final judgment. The Pharisees epitomized this presumption, confident in their righteousness (Luke 18:9-14). Jesus consistently taught that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the fear of public shame motivate humility, and how does this relate to standing before God?
2. What contemporary forms of presuming status before God exist (theological knowledge, ministry position, moral achievement)?
3. How does this parable prepare the way for understanding justification by faith rather than works?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐλθὼν ὁ σὲ καὶ αὐτὸν καλέσας ἐρεῖ σοι  
And him come G3588 thee And G846 he that bade and say to thee  
G2532 G2064 G4571 G2532 G2564 G2046 G4671

Δὸς τούτῳ τόπον καὶ τότε ἀρξη μετ' αἰσχύνης τὸν  
Give this man place And G5119 thou begin with shame G3588  
G1325 G5129 G5117 G2532 G756 G3326 G152

ἔσχατον τόπον κατέχειν  
the lowest place to take  
G2078 G5117 G2722

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 16:18** (Parallel theme): Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

**Proverbs 11:2** (Parallel theme): When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

**Proverbs 3:35** (Parallel theme): The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

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