

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Prayerfully read Luke 14:7-11
- Can you think of any other passages that talk about the importance of humility? What is one that stands out to you?

Sermon Questions: This will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- What "section" are verses 7-11 part of and how do we know that?
- What did we say the main point of this message was?
- I'm guessing most of us know what Jesus says in verse 11 already. Do you think the Pharisees knew this already or not? How is that in and of itself a warning?
- In this message, I wanted to motivate you to really examine yourself in light of this verse. Can you think of how I tried to do that? How else might you motivate someone to consider whether or not they were proud?
- What hint does Luke give you that in this passage Jesus is going to reveal what is wrong with the Pharisees? (Hint: Notice the contrast between what happens in verse 1 and verse 7)
- Why were they choosing the places of honor for themselves? What did that mean in their culture?
- What are some examples that this was a pattern for the Pharisees?
- What question does Jesus ask in John 5:44 and what is the significance?
- What are some things Jonathan Edwards compared spiritual pride to and what do they tell us about its danger?
- What story does Jesus tell to illustrate why what the Pharisees was doing was a problem and what was the point?
- What suggestion for pursuing humility stood out to you and why?

Sermon Outline: A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.

1. What is the problem? (v.7)
2. Why is it a problem? (v.8-11)
3. What should we do? (v.11)

Summary Statement: This is a VERY short explanation to help you get the point of the message.

I want to look at Luke 14:7-11 where Jesus identifies the problem with the Pharisees and lawyers in order to show you the importance of being humble and not seeking honor and glory from others and motivate you to examine your life and repent of any spiritual pride and commit to humbling yourself before God.

Connecting the Dots: This may help some of you see more clearly how this message works.

1. We began by identifying the text we are going to study together.
 - a. We are looking at Luke 14:7-11.
 - i. This is part of a larger section - verses 1-24.

1. One way we know that is because it is all in the same location. (Meaning Jesus is in the same spot.)
 - ii. In this larger section there are sub-sections however.
 1. One way we know that is because Luke shows us Jesus talking to different people.
 2. We then explained the main point of the passage and the message.
 - a. Verse 11 is the main point.
 - i. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
 - ii. In general, we are going to be talking about the danger of pride and the importance of humility.
 - b. I stated this at the beginning, because I didn't want us to miss it.
 - c. But the goal of this message is not merely to tell you this principle and have you walk away knowing it as a piece of information. Instead it is to motivate you to believe that, understand that, be convicted by that, and seek to shape your entire life by that.
 - i. For that to happen, you need to be willing to do a bit of self-evaluation.
 - ii. Unfortunately, as evidenced by the Pharisees and lawyers it can sometimes be very difficult to get people who know something as a fact to actually evaluate whether or not that fact is shaping the way they look at life.
 - iii. That's why I felt like I needed to begin this message by doing some motivating.
 3. In order to help you feel the need to really think about your own life in light of verse 11, I made three observations:
 - a. First of all we noted what Jesus is doing here:
 - i. Jesus is identifying a problem in the religious leadership.
 1. We demonstrated that by looking at verse 7.
 - a. "Now he told a parable...when.
 - ii. One reason Luke included this story was as a way of teaching us about discipleship. By using this negative example, he is teaching us the importance of principle for how His followers understand God and how the world works.
 - iii. This principle is ABSOLUTELY VITAL!
 1. This idea is repeated throughout the Bible.
 2. It will be repeated in the gospel of Luke.
 - b. It's kind of familiar though. And I wanted you not just to assume you knew it. So I had you think a little about how influenced we are by what others are teaching us.
 - i. The fact is Jesus isn't the only one teaching us about God and how the world works. There are a lot of other voices in our lives training us how to think and how to live.

- ii. And sometimes what they are teaching us impacts us at a very deep level without us even realizing it. This is what is so dangerous.
- iii. We all have these ideas in our head that we have been taught by others.
- iv. We need help identifying what God wants us to think.
- v. Jesus proved that He is the one who is able to do that.
- vi. With so many voices telling us what to think and how to look at life, we desperately need someone who is an authority, who we can trust, who can cut through all the clutter and tell us this is what God wants. And, if there's one thing Luke has made clear, that's Jesus.
- vii. And why I am saying all this?
 - 1. I am trying to get you ready for verses 7-11 by setting it in its context.
 - 2. What has just happened in verses 1-6 is that Luke has shown us that Jesus proved He was the authoritative prophet who we can trust to explain God to us.
- viii. And this context is important to remember, because Luke is going to show us Jesus talking to the religious leaders of his day and telling them what they are getting wrong.
 - 1. I demonstrated that by showing the contrast between verse 1 and verse 7.
 - a. In verse 1 we find the rulers of the Pharisees watching Jesus 'lurkingly.' In other words, they are trying to find something wrong with Jesus but in the end, they are silenced.
 - b. Now in verse 7 what do we see happening? Jesus is watching the Pharisees. "Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them." So Jesus has proved He is the one who knows God's law and is now examining the Pharisees to reveal what they are failing to understand.
- c. And I went a little slowly here because I really wanted to help you appreciate that this text is kind of a big moment. We need Jesus to teach us in a world that is constantly telling us what to think and we should want Jesus to teach us and this text is a great opportunity to learn from Jesus because Jesus is showing what the Pharisees and lawyers are getting wrong! And these are not the kind of people you would expect to get it wrong the way they did. If they can get this wrong, we can get this wrong!
 - i. Now, I had to make a bit of a hard decision here.
 - ii. To appreciate what's happening here it's important you have to have the proper perspective on the Pharisees. Because if you think

of them as people without a clue, then you are going to be less surprised and interested as Jesus exposes what they are getting wrong. But when you understand how others viewed them and where they came from and what their purpose was, you can see how important it is for us to understand what they missed.

- iii. To appreciate that, you need some background material on the Pharisees but I didn't want to get so lost in the historical data about the Pharisees that you lost sight of the main point this text is teaching.
 - iv. So instead of giving a very detailed history lesson on the Pharisees, I tried to quickly summarize some major data points by saying that these are men who spent their lives studying the Bible and teaching the Bible and yet got the Bible wrong in such a big way that they ended up becoming some of the primary people behind the movement to crucify Jesus. I summarized it like that because I hoped that would motivate you to take what Jesus says in this passage very seriously.
4. Now having been introduced to the text, and hopefully being more motivated and willing to look at our own lives in light of this passage now, we broke it down into three parts.
- a. First of all, what was the problem?
 - i. I showed you that the problem is illustrated by what Jesus sees the Pharisees doing at the end of verse 7.
 - 1. "He noticed they chose the places of honor."
 - a. I had to give you a little cultural background to understand why they did this.
 - b. I then showed you how this was not a once off kind of decision by these particular Pharisees, but rather typical of a pattern Jesus had been pointing out in them repeatedly. I proved that by looking at the following passages:
 - i. Matthew 6:1-18
 - ii. Matthew 23:5,6
 - iii. John 5:44
 - 2. We then talked about how we still struggle with this problem today and I tried to demonstrate that our culture actually makes this kind of motivation normal. It disciplines us in doing this.
 - a. I did that because this is a serious problem and it is a subtle problem. I wanted you to see that we sometimes living this way without even realizing it, because I want us be willing to look at our lives and repent and seek to change at a deep heart level.
 - ii. We summarized the problem as spiritual pride.

1. We talked about the danger of spiritual pride and used a quote from Jonathan Edwards to emphasize how much damage it can do in our lives.
- b. Having identified the problem, we began thinking about why seeking honor and glory from others like this is such a problem.
 - i. We gave the reason at the front. It's connected to a deep down way of thinking that is the opposite of how the gospel works. How you live in those little moments matters because it is connected to what you really believe.
 - ii. Then we demonstrated that from verses 8-11.
 1. We looked at these verses and recognized they are a bit confusing. Here I wanted to stimulate to think a little about what they could mean by noticing what is going on in this text.
 - a. Is Jesus giving a course on manners?
 - b. Is Jesus giving a strategy for getting exalted in front of others?
 2. Those questions were intended to motivate you to look at the text more carefully and when you do, you see that Luke describes this as a parable.
 - a. We thought about how that helps us by defining a parable and looking at what Jesus said his parables were about in Luke 8.
 3. Then we looked at the details of the parable.
 - a. It's a simple story about what to do when you are invited to a wedding.
 - i. Don't seat yourself in an important place because you may be shamed.
 - ii. Seat yourself in an important place and then you will be honored by the host.
 - b. But what does this mean? We thought about the context. Jesus has been talking about the kingdom of God as being like a banquet.
 - i. This story illustrates that.
 - ii. If at a human wedding you know that you shouldn't seat yourself at an important place in case you will be humiliated, but rather should seat yourself at a lower place and allow the host to honor you, how much worse would it be to do that with the kingdom of God - to assume you are important and be humiliated by God. Instead the Pharisees ought to humble themselves and allow God to honor them.
 - c. And why should they do that?
 - i. Verse 11.

- ii. God has made one of the requirements for entering into the kingdom of God very clear and that is you must stop trying to exalt yourself before others and humble yourself before Him.
 - iii. At this point we spent some time contrasting the gospel and how God works with other human religions and ideas.
 - c. If spiritual pride is such a problem, what should we do as followers of Jesus? This was our third point. What do we do?
 - i. First of all I challenged you to evaluate not just whether you know this principle but whether you are living it.
 - ii. Then second I called on you to act and gave you ten specific steps you can take to humble yourself before God.

Application Questions:

We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital

you respond.

- Are there any ways you can see that you have been trained in seeking glory from others?
- In what ways do you seek glory from others?
- What are some ways spiritual pride has done or could do damage in your life?
- Do you agree with Jesus about the serious danger of exalting yourself?
- If you do, have you repented of this sin recently?
- What do you need to do to change? What are you going to do? How?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.