

# The Seats at the Wedding

The number one enemy of the Christian is self! Satan uses self to destroy the Christian through: (1) ambitions and desires which oppose God's will, (2) attitudes which control our lives, (3) affections for "things" (1 John 2:15–17). If Christ is our Lord and master, self will not be in control. We cannot serve two masters—Matt. 6:24.

*Luke 14:8-11*

## INTRODUCTION

- The number one enemy of the Christian is self! Satan uses self to destroy the Christian through:
  - ambitions and desires which oppose God's will
  - and attitudes that control our lives
  - love for "things" (1 John 2:15–17)
- If Christ is our Lord and master, self will not be in control. We cannot serve two masters—Matt. 6:24.

Pentz, C. M. (1980). *Outlines on the Parables of Jesus* (p. 21). Baker Book House.

## 1 Selfishness Luke 14:8

## EXPLANATION

- Seeking (vs. 8a): Don't seek the best for selfish reasons.
  - "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Galatians 2:20
- Sharing (vs. 8b): The shame of being demoted or moved from first class to second class (Southwest Airlines)
  - Paul was a great man, but he recognized he was the chiefest of all sinners. "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all.*" (1 Timothy 1:15)

## 2 Shame Luke 14:9

## EXPLANATION

- Reservation (9a): "The host will bring him over to where you are sitting and say, 'Let this man sit here instead' "—LB. Learn to live the crucified life—Gal. 2:20.
- Result (vs. 9b): "And you, embarrassed, will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table"—LB. Spell JOY ... J—Jesus O—Others Y—Yourself.

### 3 Sincerity Luke 14:10

#### EXPLANATION

- Humble acceptance (vs. 10a): Accept the low, unimportant place and let others exalt you.
  - Practice - humble yourself..."Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you." James 4:10
  - Personality -"You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your elders*; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)
    - submit to the elders
    - beclothed with humility
    - Know that God resists the proud
- Humble advancement (10b)
  - Promise—1 Peter 5:5b. He gives grace to the humble.
  - Position—James 4:10b. If we humble ourselves, He will lift us up.

### 4 Spirituality Luke 14:11

#### EXPLANATION

- Self-honor—v. 11a, “For everyone who tries to honor himself shall be humbled”—LB.
  - Satan’s pride—It seems like Satan was cast out of heaven for his arrogance) Satan wanted to be above God and was cast out of heaven.
  - Selfish pride—Mark 10:35–37. James and John wanted to sit on the right hand of Christ in heaven.
  -
- Spiritual honor—v. 11b, “And he who humbles himself shall be honored”—LB. Be faithful in small things—Luke 19:17. Then you will receive greater responsibilities. (See also Ps. 91:14).
  - Satan's pride - cast out of heaven
  - Selfish pride -
    - "James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, \*came up to Jesus, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.” And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on *Your* left, in Your glory.” (Mark 10:35-37)
- Spiritual honor (vs. 11b)
  - Be faithful in small things—Luke 19:17. Then you will receive greater responsibilities. (See also Ps. 91:14).

## CONCLUSION

"When Christ is first in your life, you will not seek honor or fame—you will seek to please Him. As you do this, you will remain humble before Him. Humility will be rewarded both in this life and in eternity."