



DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK

TAKE THE BACK SEAT

Luke 14: 7-11



⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Since young, I was taught that an adult or someone of seniority should always sit at the front passenger seat in a car. It appears to be an unspoken etiquette rule that I have grown

up with when deciding where to sit in a car. This scenario draws a parallel to the parable of the Wedding Feast that Jesus taught in Luke 14: 7-11.

Jesus observed that people were striving to secure the best seats – ‘places of honour.’ Do we, too, find ourselves rushing to claim the front passenger seat, seeking comfort and recognition? Or do we consider the needs and preferences of others, willingly taking the ‘lowest place’ in the backseat? Of course I am not only talking about the choice of seats but also the choices we made in our daily lives. Are we pursuing recognition, honour, status, and validation, sometimes at the expense of neglecting the needs and feelings of others?

Jesus advised us to always “go and sit in the lowest place”, choosing humility. He provided a scenario: if a person is seated in the place of honour and someone more distinguished arrives, the host would come and ask the person to move. In that case, the person would feel embarrassed. Instead, it is better to take a lower seat and the host may then invite the person to take a better seat. In this way, the person would be honoured in the presence of all those at the table.

Opting for the backseat or allowing someone else to take the front passenger seat is not about belittling ourselves; instead, it is a demonstration of humility and consideration for others.

Scripture teaches us to be humble:

- “Put on... humility” (Colossians 3:12)
- “Have... a humble mind” (1 Peter 3:8)
- “Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another” (1 Peter 5:5)

Our greatest example of humility is Jesus Christ Himself, who humbled Himself by coming to this world, taking the form of a

servant, and being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8).

Jesus concluded the parable with the profound statement, “for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Let us embrace this principle in our lives. When we exalt ourselves, we often experience disappointment and humiliation, but when we choose humility, true honour follows.

By considering the needs and feelings of others, we can reflect the love and kindness of Christ in our daily lives. Let us seek opportunities to practice humility; “do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility counts others more significant than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3)

Reflection Questions

- *Are there areas where you have sought self-promotion or recognition at the expense of others?*
- *What impact did Jesus’ humility have on you?*
- *How can you practice humility in your daily life?*

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