

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Luke 14:1,7-14
September 6, 2015

Humble Servant of God - worth, purpose, and significance forever!

Jesus offers obvious common sense advise - that obviously is not obvious.

- ◆ At the risk of humiliation, some keep elbowing their way to the top
- ◆ It's not just a Pharisee problem! cf. disciples before foot washing
- ◆ *Root*: selfish, yes. *Deeper root*: search for worth & significance
 - Sounds philosophical, but this ache arises at every age
 - The need to be loved, belong, purpose, meaning, value, count...
- ◆ God's revealed truth - not just *theology*! **It's life**. Meets our real needs
- ❖ The limit of our self-worth - the source of the problem
 - ◆ People find some self-worth and purpose in their roles
 - Parent/child/family member - friendships/neighbors
 - Role on a team (sport, work, school) or in community
 - Change challenges our sense of self-worth
 - ◆ **Reality** challenges our self-worth
 - We know our weaknesses, failures, sin, guilt, shame
 - Worth *based on self* is limited and fragile - a fraud
 - Our arrogance toward others and God - we deserve to be humbled
 - Denial, propping up a facade, assuming a higher seat - doesn't work!
 - ◆ ¹¹ ***For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.***
 - Reality as well as God's Word tells us self-exaltation is foolish. It will catch up to us sooner or later - definitely in eternity.
 - **But wait!** There's a second part - a promise: ***he who humbles himself will be exalted.***
 - ◆ I hope you heard that. Don't get stuck in the depressing reality!
 - ◆ Not self exaltation! Exalted by God! *Tell me more.*

- ❖ Jesus restores our worth, purpose, and significance forever!
 - ◆ God created humans with worth, purpose, significance as his servants
 - ◆ We lost our worth when we lost our status as his servants, being rebels
 - ◆ Jesus came to restore our status with God.
 - Our substitute Servant of the Lord, lived for us and died for us.
 - ◆ This satisfied God's just wrath, reconciling us to him.
 - ◆ Jesus' saving work - good news of forgiveness, wins each heart
 - ◆ We rediscover the exalted position: Servants of the Living God
 - Dearly loved children - brothers and sisters of Jesus
 - Royal Priests, holy nation, people belonging to God.
 - We are humbled by:
 - ◆ Reality of our sin, but even more his love that wants us back
 - ◆ Jesus' love - gave us value when we were worthless to God
 - ◆ Being prodigal children **fully restored** to be heirs
 - ◆ The honor to serve and represent God
 - ◆ A humility of honor, not suppression! Humbled to be so valued!
- ❖ Actively claim your exalted status: Humble Servant of God
 - ◆ Daily life of repentance - to marvel that I have this status = worth
 - ◆ Serve God where he has placed you - loving with his love
 - ◆ Find value, purpose, and significance - not burden, but life to the full
 - ◆ Know that what's done in his service is done to Jesus! What an honor!
 - ◆ Active servants mature in his word - maturity that goes into eternity.

Living God's Word is not a burden. Done in and under the gospel we find what the world is looking for: worth, purpose, and significance - forever.

Put aside the counter productive self-seeking value. Daily find that...

Humble Servant of God - worth, purpose, and significance forever!