

Discussion & Reflection Questions
Brave Unknown - Week 3 - Pentecost 12C - 31st August 2025

Read: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸ ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at 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 the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’ ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

Discussion Questions

1. What do you notice about the social dynamics at the meal? How might honour and status have been particularly important in first-century banquets?
2. Jesus notices how guests “chose the places of honour.” How does His teaching about taking the lowest seat challenge cultural & personal ideas about status?
3. Where in today’s world do you see people taking the place of honour & where do you see people taking the lower seat?
4. What do you think Jesus means by “exalted” & “humbled in verse 11?
5. What does Jesus’ teaching here reveal about God’s heart for the marginalised & how God’s kingdom reverses social norms?
6. When you consider your own circles of hospitality, who might you naturally overlook or avoid? How might this passage challenge you to open your table – literally or figuratively?
7. How does this passage relate to our theme “brave unknown”?

Prayer

O God,
you invite the humble and the sinful
to take their place in the festive assembly of the new covenant:
teach your Church always
to honour the presence of the Lord in the poor and the outcast,
so that we may learn to recognise each other
as brothers and sisters gathered together around your table.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.