

HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR OF LUKE

1. At first good practical advice to avoid embarrassment and look good to others
 - a. When go to fancy banquet, do not try to sit in the more important positions
 - b. Avoid being asked to go to lower level and be shamed
 - c. Reason we might want to sit at higher level is to be seen as important person
 - d. Jesus is saying importance in eyes of others is not central for his followers
2. Because we know only our own feelings and thoughts we tend to think of ourselves as center of universe
 - a. We worry about what others will think of us if we make a mistake
 - b. We can get all self-conscious and worried about how others see us
 - c. We will get upset if we hear someone may be making a negative comment about us
 - d. We forget of course that everyone else is also focused in on themselves
 - e. Either they do not even see what we are doing
 - f. Negative comments often are way of moving focus from themselves
3. Jesus seems to be telling us true humility is looking beyond ourselves
 - a. When we go to a banquet, he is telling us do not get trapped in worries about who is most important
 - b. Instead of placing ourselves at the center, let others have their day in the sun
 - c. If it is important that we be honored it should be for others to point this out, not that we make ourselves the most important person
4. Perhaps even more importantly, we should be concerned who we raise up to importance
 - a. Easy for social activities like dinners to turn into commercial transactions
 - b. We might invite someone to our party if they are likely to return the favor
 - c. Jesus is calling us to a less comfortable position
 - d. He tells us we should be so confident in ourselves that we will invite those who cannot return the favor to our parties.
 - e. He says we should seek out the poor, the blind and the lame because they will be unable to return the favor
5. These are difficult words that Jesus speaks to us
 - a. We have to go beyond our normal comfort levels
 - b. To really be inviting the poor, the blind and the lame means going beyond doing things for them as the others
 - c. We work to get to know them, to accept them as we want to be accepted
 - d. Jesus is telling us that we need to gain the humility to see the goodness especially in those who are strangers
6. The benefit Jesus tells us is that they will actually return that invitation in the banquet that really counts, the Resurrection of the just.