

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Luke 14 :11** All those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted

Have you ever been at a meeting, or in the cinema, been watching the television, or at church and you suddenly realise that you have completely lost the thread of what had been said or the film has lost all meaning? You will know where I am coming from. It is not the first time I have fallen asleep watching a programme and when I next look, it is a totally different thing altogether that is on the screen. Quite confusing when it happens. Was it lack of attention or just not able to hold my attention?

A good teacher is someone who will hold your attention and probably help you to remember what you have been taught for a long time. Jesus taught in parables, for many and they in turn have stayed with us throughout our lives. Luke tells of a visit Jesus had made to a certain Pharisees house and healed him, but the other Pharisees were not at all enamoured by what Jesus had done. They did not bow down and worship and thank Jesus for healing their friend. After all it was an amazing miracle. But there was no response to it. Were they not paying attention, or upset it was on the Sabbath that he had performed the miracle? Jesus saw that the friends were sitting in seats where they would be seen to be special or so they thought, and continued with the lesson. Luke informs us what Jesus wanted them to know (vv. 7–11). “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (v. 11). It is not for us to be above God we must be humble but faithful in our lives. It is only through God’s grace that we receive a place at the table. Jesus through telling this parable made the Pharisees aware that their pride was letting them down, they would not be guaranteed a place in Heaven. They had to realise that by rejecting Christ they were actually rejecting God. Therefore, others would receive a place by God’s good grace. The lasting lesson for them and us is to genuinely turn our pride to humility and work towards the goal of a place in Heaven. Only then will have a place at the table. Jesus says, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear” (v. 35). Can you hear God speaking to you? Jesus has made a place for you at His table. He offers salvation as a free gift.

Prayer, let us learn from the master and ask that we will always remember to thank the Lord our God for all the good things He has for us. Amen