

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C-2022)

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

The central theme of readings and liturgy for the 22nd Sunday is about the virtue of HUMILITY.

The prophet search in the first reading put great emphasis on the virtue of humility and gave such advice: "the greater you are; the more you must humble yourself".

In the Gospel, Jesus preached about humility using the context of a wedding banquet.

I remember that in most church weddings that I have administered, they always invite me to the wedding reception/wedding banquet. And I noticed that there are always 2 kinds of tables:

1. Special table – where the bride and groom are seated along with some dignitaries, politicians, high ranking officials, sponsors, and the priest.
2. Common table – where the common guests are lining up to get their share of food.

But added to this observation are two sets of food:

*SPECIAL TABLE- the food is a lot. (eat all you can)

*COMMON TABLE – Food is limited.. "you cannot eat all"

Going back to the Gospel, Jesus is teaching humility using two characters in a wedding banquet:

1st: invited(guests). 2nd: inviting(host)

Humility for the guests is to choose the lowest place in the banquet. And for the host, humility can be practiced by inviting the poor and those who cannot repay... For Jesus said: **blessed will you be because of their inability to repay... for by the Lord, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.**

But To have a better picture of Jesus' teaching on the virtue of humility, we start with these basic questions:

WHAT IS HUMILITY? HOW TO BECOME HUMBLE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMBLE?

If a person feels worthless, unimportant, or even useless about himself, that person is not humble he is miserable.

What he feels is not humility... it is inferiority complex

Humility is not helplessness. If a person is simply allowing other people to look or put him down and have no spirit to stand and fight for his rights, that person is not humble... he is coward.

Humility is also not having no ambition or no vision in life. If a person is just contented of his situation; or does not strive to seek progress and development in his life, that person is not humble... he is lazy.

So what is humility then?

Humility is a positive thing. You are humble if you know and aware of your worth and your dignity as a person and understand your purpose in this world.

Jesus in the Gospel parable teaches us: Humility is choosing the lowest place; not because it is the only place suited for us, but we choose the lowest place because we want to give the best place to someone higher and greater than us.... and that is God.

Humility then is giving God the right and best place in our lives.

The virtue of humility is teaching us then that: though we are good, we recognize that someone is better; though we are strong, someone is stronger; though we are great, someone is greater. And that Someone who is the Best, the Strongest and the Greatest is no body else but God, from whom we owe all the goodness, strength and greatness in our lives.

Today, we are called to lead a life of humility and the Gospel is helping us how. We must look upon ourselves as having received everything we have and everything we are from God the giver of all blessings and whom we reserved the highest place. With humble hearts, we should choose the lowest place and never think of ourselves as better than anyone else..... for all that we have and all that we are is due to God's grace.

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