

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

February 16, 2020

Issue 7

## Humility - The Passport To Promotion

By: Ronnie Scherffius

Jesus was often criticized by the Pharisees because He “receiveth sinners, and eateth with them” (Lk. 15:2; cf. 5:30; 7:34; 19:7). It was also true, however, that Jesus was invited by and dined with the Pharisees. On one occasion, Luke records of Jesus invitation into “the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread” (Lk. 14:1). It was at this feast that Jesus, marking the pride of the Pharisees, instructed in a parable the grand character of humility - passport to promotion in the kingdom.

“And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms (seats - RLS); saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship (glory or honor - RLS) in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” (Luke 14:7-11)

There are three particulars that stand in stark contrast to one another in this parable: a haughty attitude, a humiliating request, and an honored invitation.

The **haughty attitude** of the Pharisees must have been on clear display at the feast. Like children rushing to the front of a line at a potluck lunch, the proud Pharisees competed for the seat of honor. Jesus often condemned the Pharisees’ vain desire for first place: “But all their works they do for to be seen of men...And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi” (Mt. 23:5-7; cf. Lk. 16:15; Jn. 5:44). Considering themselves better than others the Pharisees refused to forgive the penitent (Luke 15:7, 10). Their prideful attitude caused them to lay “aside the commandments of God” for “the tradition of men” (Mk. 7:8). The seed of such an attitude when full-grown considers the promises and blessings of the gospel of Christ unworthy of consideration (Acts 13:46). Through inspired wisdom Solomon wrote: “*When pride cometh, then cometh shame*” (Prov. 11:2). A haughty attitude leads, not to promotion, but rather to demotion.

In our parable Jesus noted that the haughty attitude of the invited guest resulted in a **humiliating request**: “Give this man place” (9). Embarrassed and ashamed, and in view of all present he removed himself, not to a *lower seat*, but to the “*lowest seat*” at the table! His haughtiness was to his “shame.” His arrogance was his undoing. His self-importance became his disgrace. His pride was his downfall. Again, inspired wisdom in-

structs, “Pride *goeth* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). The attitude of self-appointed worthiness will certainly receive the reward of rightly deserved shame.

The great lesson of Jesus’ parable is *humility* and is seen in the **honored invitation** extended to the “friend” of the host: “go up higher” (10). Observe the stark contrasts between the humble and the prideful: The humble assumes the *lowest* seat while the prideful assumes the *highest*; the humble is dignified while prideful is displaced; the humble is honored while prideful is humiliated; the humble is rejoiced while prideful is removed; the humble is a “friend” while the prideful is a stranger!

Jesus instructed that those who exalt themselves before men may live honored among men (Mt. 6:1-16) but before God they will have no such honor (1 Pt. 5:5). The wisdom of God affirms: “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility” (Prov. 18:12). Humility is the passport to promotion and the honor of God is reserved for the humblest of men: “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Lk. 14:11).

---

### **Love Your Neighbor**

By: Cody Westbrook

Love your neighbor. The sentiment seems simple enough but the practice is much more difficult than we may realize. The problem is not that people are unfamiliar with the idea—“love each other” is a refrain heard on a daily basis. The real issue is meaning. What is love? What does it mean to love your neighbor? People tend to answer those questions based on their own philosophy and such is problematic because it produces a chaotic inconsistent atmosphere where one person’s love is another person’s hate. Evidence of this problem is clearly seen in the social justice movement that is currently alive and well in our society. We are told that failure to acquiesce to what certain societal figures deem appropriate is unloving and a failure to treat our fellow man with respect and dignity. But what does God’s word say about the subject? How does God define “love your neighbor?”

In Luke 10:29 a lawyer asked Jesus “And who is my neighbor?” His question prompted Jesus to teach the parable of the good Samaritan. The parable illustrates a truth that the Mosaic Law taught clearly—every one of our fellow man should be considered as our neighbor (cf. Lev. 19:18; Ex. 22:21). Rich, poor, black, white, those who agree or disagree with us politically, all people are created in the image of God and possess a soul that is more valuable than the whole world (Matt. 16:26).

God requires that we view them accordingly. But, what does it mean to love them? Biblical love is defined by action. “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). Loving our neighbor means serving and caring for them. The Law of Moses identified some concrete actions that illustrate this love. Leviticus 19 commanded Israel to leave the corners of their fields for the poor (vss. 9-10), to be honest (v. 11), not to curse the deaf or trip the blind (v. 14), to be fair (v. 15), and not gossip (v. 16). Proverbs 14:21 demands mercy be given to your neighbor. Isaiah 1:17 says “Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.” Numerous passages in the New Testament also illustrate the principle. Consider Matthew 5:21-48—do not hate your brother, do not lust, be faithful to your spouse, keep your word, go the second mile, and do good to your enemies. Matthew 7:12 says, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Galatians 6:10 commands, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Scripture clearly teaches that we must understand the importance of loving our neighbor and striving to serve and help him in whatever ways we can (cf. Matt. 25:31-46). But scripture also teaches us that the greatest action of love is not meeting physical needs, but spiritual. Jesus fed the multitude but also commanded “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you...” (John 6:27). Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He took care of physical needs but His primary emphasis was spiritual. He came to save man from sin, not from poverty. We must follow His example. We must love our neighbor in the way God defines it. As opportunity arises (Gal. 6:10), help in whatever way we are able. But above all, seek opportunities to help our neighbor enter into a right relationship with God.

---

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**  
Week of February 16, 2020

**Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

**Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons  
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes  
Offering: Lupe Escojido  
Assist: BJ Davis, Kirk FitzSimmons, Christian Sneeringer

**Sunday Evening:** Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobes

**Prayer**

A.M. Closing: Steve Randle  
P.M. Closing: Anthony Scherffius

**Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius  
Sun. P.M.: Larry Nuckels  
Wednesday: Doug Jobes

**Usher:** Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Ronnie Scherffius

**Open/Close Building:** Will Burlison

**Sound System:** Trenton Jenkins

**Greeters:** Bryce Dolan  
Doug Jobes

**Prepare Communion:** Jamison

---

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Gospel Meeting at MidTown church of Christ

Theme: **Unity in the Body of Christ**

March 8th-11th, 2020 with Kelvin Pugh



**IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

Paul Soliz, who passed away last week. Bob Law who is at home recovering. Damian Benitez, Jr., who is the nephew of Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil, who is having medical problems. Brant Jacobs who had surgery on his wrist.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb. 16: Chili Cook-Off after evening services. Please bring chili, beans, cheese, chips, and other fixings and desserts.

Feb. 18,25: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class @ 10am  
March 8- 11: MidTown's Spring Gospel meeting with Kelvin Pugh.

**AREA EVENTS**

Feb: 27-Mar. 1: Arise and grow as a family workshop at Southwest church of Christ in Austin, TX  
Mar. 26-28: "Women of Valor" Retreat. More info on the bulletin board.

June 3-7: "Wait on the Lord" Men's Development conference in College Station.

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**

Happy Birthday: Paul Purswell (16), Barbie Dolan, Kevin Sheeran (18), Curtis Pantel (19), Virginia Escojido (21), Mickey Tisue (22)

Happy Anniversary: Ron & Mary Jo White (11)

---

**KEEP IN PRAYER**

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Veronica Serenil  
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson  
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius  
**Secretary:** Nina Siegel

## TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of February 9, 2020

Bible Class.....	83
A.M. Worship.....	120
P.M. Worship.....	80
Wednesday Bible Class.....	71

Offering      \$3,790

## Reading for this week:

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.'"

Numbers 6:22-26

---

## SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

---

## GO PAPERLESS!

Want the digital version?

Email us at [midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)

To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox  
or visit [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

---

## MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

[midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)

