

L I V I N G   T H E   J E S U S

# PARADOXES



The people who hanged Christ never accused  
Him of being a bore——on the contrary;  
they thought Him too dynamic to be safe. It  
has been left for later generations to muffle  
up that shattering personality and surround  
Him with an atmosphere of tedium.

DOROTHY SAYERS



# Down Is Up





## LUKE 14:7-11

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: <sup>8</sup> “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.



## LUKE 14:7-11

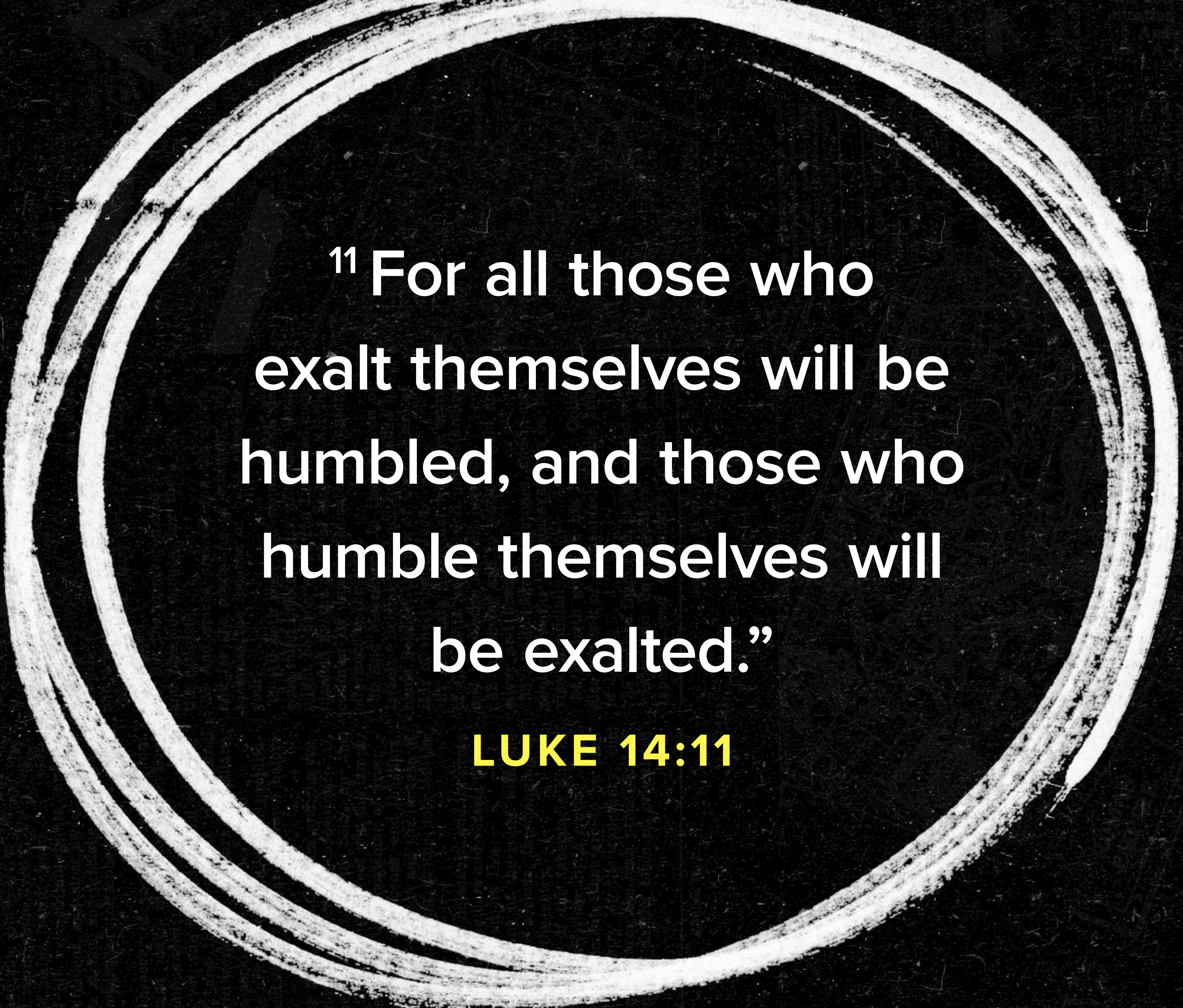
<sup>9</sup> If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.



## LUKE 14:7-11

<sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests.





<sup>11</sup> For all those who  
exalt themselves will be  
humbled, and those who  
humble themselves will  
be exalted.”

**LUKE 14:11**



Humility frees us from the  
need to feel superior to others.



# Humility frees us from the need to feel superior to others.

- We don't have to prove anything.



# Humility frees us from the need to feel superior to others.

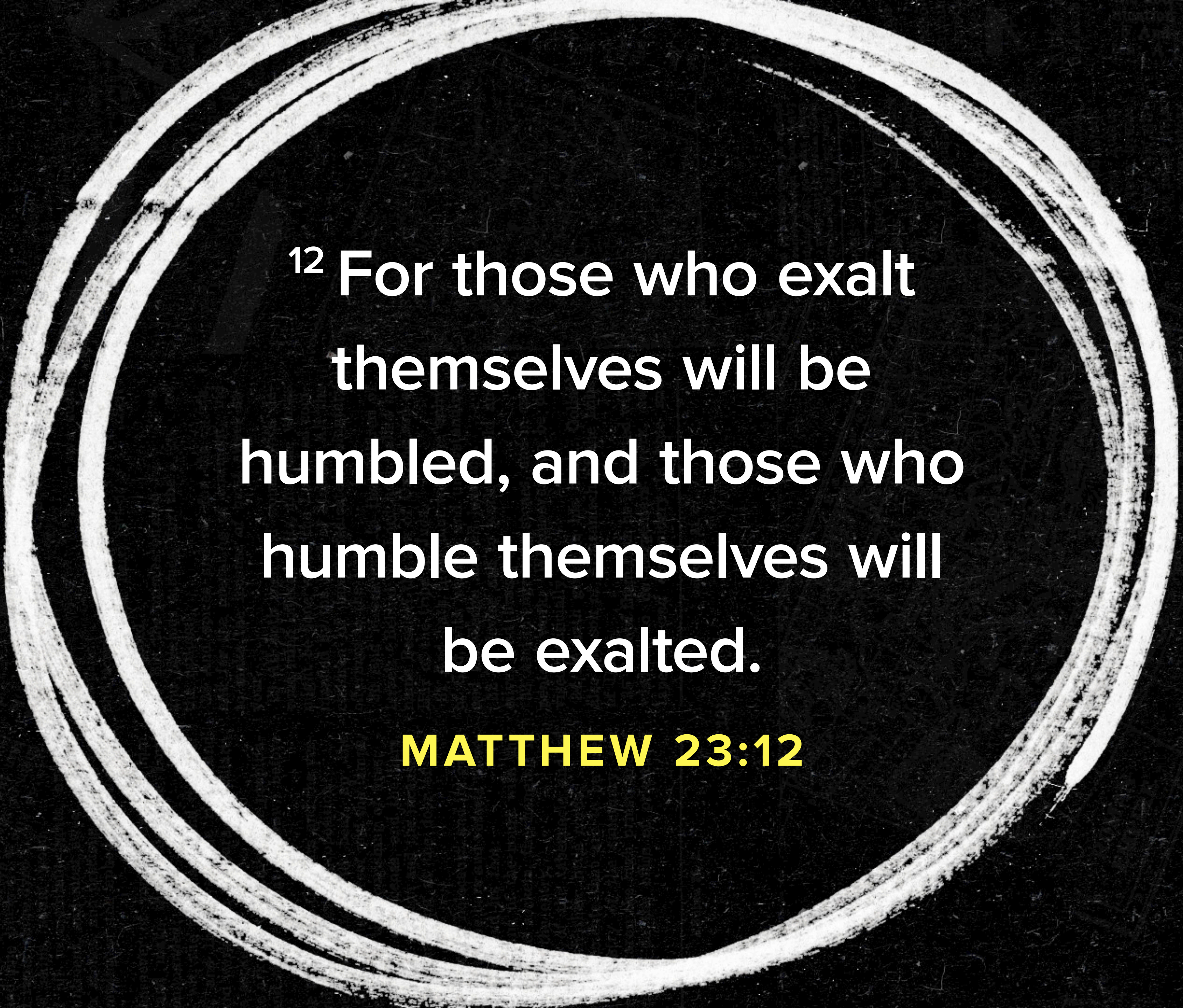
- We don't have to prove anything.
- We don't have to win everything.



## MATTHEW 23:5-7,12

<sup>5</sup> “Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; <sup>6</sup> they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; <sup>7</sup> they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.





<sup>12</sup> For those who exalt  
themselves will be  
humbled, and those who  
humble themselves will  
be exalted.

**MATTHEW 23:12**



Humility frees us from the need  
to be the center of attention.



# Humility frees us from the need to be the center of attention.

- We don't have to be controlled by what others think.



# Humility frees us from the need to be the center of attention.

- We don't have to be controlled by what others think.
- We don't have to always have our way.



## LUKE 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.



## LUKE 18:9-14

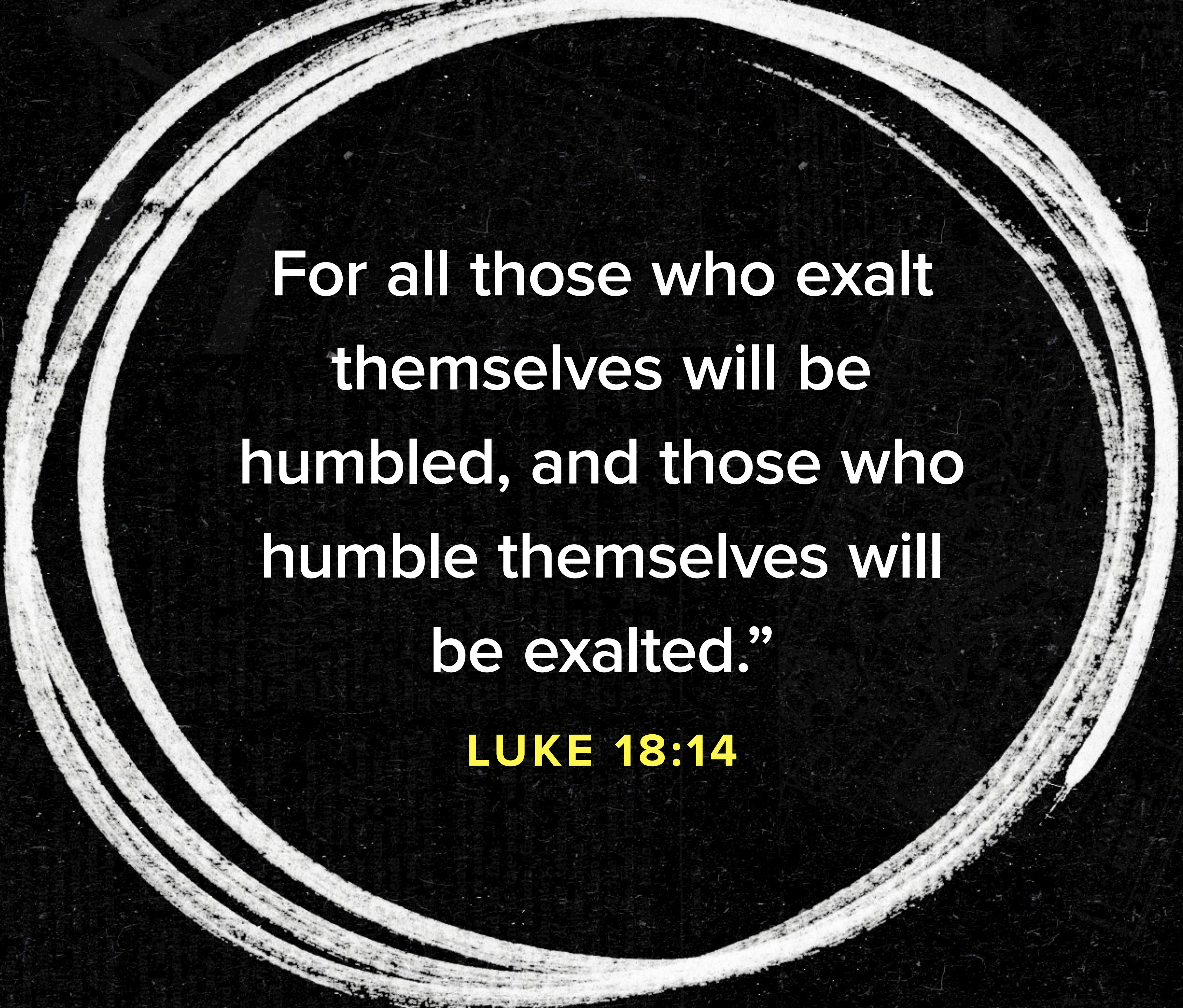
<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:  
'God, I thank you that I am not like other  
people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or  
even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a  
week and give a tenth of all I get.'



## LUKE 18:9-14

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup> “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.





For all those who exalt  
themselves will be  
humbled, and those who  
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be exalted.”

**LUKE 18:14**



Humility frees us from the  
need to earn God's favor.

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Humility frees us from the  
need to earn God's favor.

- We don't have to depend on our goodness.



# Humility frees us from the need to earn God's favor.

- We don't have to depend on our goodness.
- We don't have to deny our sinfulness.



## ISAIAH 66:2B

<sup>2</sup> ...These are the ones I look on with favor:  
those who are humble and contrite in spirit,  
and who tremble at my word.



“The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is.”

PHILLIP BROOKS



