

# Living the Jesus Paradoxes: 'Down is Up'

Jesus . . .

<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.

<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. <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 14:7-11)**

- ▶ **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

Jesus . . .

***Matthew 23:5-7***

**<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\_**

- We don't have to be **\_controlled\_** by what others **\_think\_**
- We don't have to always **\_have\_** our **\_way\_**

Jesus . . .

**Luke 18:9-13**

<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 humble themselves will be exalted.**" (Luke 18:14)

- ▶ 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\_**

<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. (Isaiah 66:2b)

Phillip Brooks:

"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."