



International Bible Lessons Commentary

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Luke 14:7-14
New Revised Standard Version
March 3, 2019

The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, March 3, 2019**, is from **Luke 14:7-14**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

(Luke 14:7) When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

Because God is concerned about our daily lives, Jesus expressed His concern about the ordinary and practical aspects of daily living as well as the deeper and more profound truths about God. Learning how to live faithful to God in our ordinary daily relationships with others in the small things (or what appear to be the small things to us or others) will prepare us to know what to do in more

crucial situations and in larger things. If we prove responsible in small matters, God and others can trust us to do what is necessary in larger matters.

(Luke 14:8) “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;

Jesus taught that someday in the future He would host the marriage supper of the Lamb. It would never be proper for anyone to push or rush ahead of others to seek the best seats above others in the Kingdom of God or at the marriage supper of the Lamb. If we follow the Golden Rule, we might try to help others without concern for ourselves and without hoping Jesus will give us better seats as a reward for our service. The best place and time to begin practicing living this way is here and now.

(Luke 14:9) and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

Jesus warned against our developing an arrogance or pride that makes us think that we are better than others and deserve better than others. If we seek out the place of honor and take that place in order to be admired by others, we risk the host coming to us and telling us to move to a lower place. This is good practical advice. If we grasp after

the highest place, our grasping may reveal something about our spiritual condition. Remember, Jesus came to serve and not to be served; this can become our attitude too. In Matthew 20:27-28, Jesus declared, “Whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Even though we are children of God and Jesus is our big brother, we need to adopt Jesus’ attitude: in Philippians 2:5-6, Paul wrote: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.”

(Luke 14:10) But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

Many events and dinners have head tables, and the most honored guests have places reserved for them at these head tables. Today, most people would not knowingly sit at a head table without being invited. It is better for a believer in Jesus Christ to serve Christ and others without thought of reward, but always humbly taking the lower place of service above self. Perhaps Christ will reward you before others, perhaps not, but if you are serving others because you love Jesus Christ and your neighbor as

yourself, then the honor of serving Jesus is the greatest reward in and of itself.

(Luke 14:11) For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Jesus summarized the main point of His parable. His followers must not exalt themselves before God and others. They were not to seek a place at His left or right hand; places reserved for others. Humble hearts and humble service of others should be the spiritual goal of all Jesus' followers. Jesus provided an example of this selfless service and His Father exalted Him to His right hand.

(Luke 14:12) He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

Jesus' principle in this verse relates to those who only do good in order to derive some selfish personal benefit or reward from those who have the resources to do something good for them in return someday. Jesus does not mean that we should only invite poor people to our dinner parties. Rather, our goal should not always focus on “What's in it for me, now or in the future?”

(Luke 14:13) But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

A true follower of Jesus Christ will do good things for others whether or not others can do good things for them in return. The economically deprived and the mentally and physically challenged need many things for their real needs to be met, and Jesus' disciples need open hearts and hands to help others without thought of getting anything in return (other than the true joy that comes from giving).

(Luke 14:14) And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Jesus did reassure His followers that they would be rewarded: God would repay them after God raised them from the dead. Believers who give can rest happy and satisfied that God notices and God does keep a record of the good things they do for others, but believers do not usually do good in order to receive heavenly rewards. Believers usually have higher objectives than selfish personal gain when they do good things for others.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why does Jesus say you should take the lowest seat at a feast?
2. What kind of person does Jesus say will be humbled?

3. How happy do you think a person is who only does things for those who will repay or reward him? How happy do you think a person is who only serves God because he wants God to reward him?

4. Who does Jesus say you should invite to your feast? Why do you think He said this?

5. When do those who follow Jesus receive their rewards for serving those who cannot repay them?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly
International Bible Lesson.

Visit the [International Bible Lessons Forum](#)
for Teachers and Students.

Copyright© 2018 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Permission Granted for Not for Profit Use.

Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and lgp@theiblf.com.