

### Introduction

Getting an invite is usually special – they thought of me!

When to a Wedding – ever had that bad feeling – where to sit

Tables laid out which one should you go to

Bethany Appleton - service asked to sit with Robyn at front

Reception where do you go

Too high and asked to move - too low and can't see

Worse at funerals – get there early to get seat

Leave front rows for family but how many rows

One funeral as family came in not enough so people asked to move

### 1. Pride

Jesus at dinner

Guests jostle for position each one wants the best seats

Not just they want the best seat

Nor the best go at the food which looks great

But a feeling I SHOULD be up front – I am an important guest

Their status should be recognised

***If you put yourself above others, you will be put down vs 11a***

Jesus wants to say that when we put ourselves forward we may be knocked back

Sometimes we don't see others as important as they see themselves

So too we may not be as important as we think we are

### 2. Humility

Samoan White Sunday – late because of hospital visit

Go to bottom of table – people rushing around wanting the Minister at the top table

***But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured. vs 11b***

Here Jesus is saying that to follow him we need to take the path of the lowly

I Claudius – slaves as ornaments

So often the real tasks are done quietly without any fuss

Jesus says it is these that will be rewarded

Come – Come up and sit with us.

### 3. Not even invited

Jesus goes one step further – don't do it humbly expecting a reward

When you have a dinner don't even invite the important people

***When you give a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends  
and family and relatives and rich neighbours vs 12***

His reason is simple these people will look to invite you back

Friends whose turn is it

No rather give where it cannot be paid back - Or can it

I have known those who go to the Christmas dinners at the City Missions say very rewarding

Open Door – in giving we do receive

Even say giving is better than receiving

But Jesus message is give not expecting any return

### Conclusion

But when we give we should give with love

Humbly not expecting reward or prestige

But simply because we want to serve others

And the reward will be there

In serving Christ who is with us always