

Be humble and make good decisions-22nd Sunday (Year C)

Luke 14:1 & 7-14

Arrogance is a negative attribute and it is one that God does not entertain. This Gospel teaching is around being humble. It is not about you being a 'door mat' and letting people 'walk over' you and treat you badly. It is about consciously choosing the lower position so that others (especially the poor and oppressed) are lifted up. If we live in this way, our reward will be both in heaven and on earth by seeing an imbalance readdressed, even in a small way.

Sharing Scripture

Jesus shares a parable in Luke 14 with the Pharisees, a group of very wealthy individuals who generally want people to know it! The purpose of the parable was to help them see that their arrogance regarding status and money was not a good reflection of how God wanted them to behave. The teaching also remains for us today.

Remind the children about the Pharisees and their ways. Share that the Pharisees placed more worth and importance on their appearance and wealth than they did on their actions for the poor.

Ask the children who they invite when they have a party? You should expect to get the normal answers of friends and family. Indulge them a little and widen the guest list to celebrities.

Ask a child to read out the Gospel of Luke 14:13-14.

Please make sure that you clarify that these verses are not about telling the children never to invite their friends to their parties. However, it is telling them that their attitude matters when deciding on whom to invite.

Jesus challenged the Pharisees because of their reasons for inviting the rich to their parties, as they only did so for appearances' sake, meaning that they just wanted to seem rich and therefore be invited to other rich parties. Jesus said that it would be better instead to invite people who couldn't repay the favour, as it would be a bigger blessing on them than it would be on the rich who have many parties to go to anyways.

The main teaching here is that we should show preferential treatment of the poor and humble ourselves to lift others up.

SCIAF

SCIAF's response to this teaching is that we follow the Catholic Social Teaching principle of giving option to the poor. SCIAF work with some of the world's poorest people to give them a hand up, not a hand out. Together, with your help, SCIAF are giving people in difficult situations the option of a brighter future.

Share the story of Pheor Kamphat who was helped by SCIAF project DPA in Cambodia. Download and print the pdf 'Pheor Kamphat'.

Respond

To close your time together, read the prayer below that was written by Father Stephen Reilly for a Stations resource with a focus on SCIAF's work in Cambodia.

**God our Father,
your Son encountered love and human kindness
in the midst of the darkness of his passion.**

**Grant us the courage to extend our kindness
to those who long for them,
and let us encounter your love and mercy
in our hour of need.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.