

St Augustine said; the way to Christ is first through humility, second through humility and third through humility. If humility does not precede, and accompany, and follow every good work we do. If it is not before us to focus on, not beside us to lean upon, not behind us to fence us; Pride will wrench from our hand any good deed we do at the very moment we do it.,

In today's Gospel, Jesus' is invited to dine at the home of a Pharisees.

Noticing much pride and very little humility, in so many words Jesus says to the them; What good is it if you always invite your in crowd? The ones you are always trying to impress and compare yourself with. Are you expecting something in return? Is it just to promote yourself? or for an invite to their banquet?

Jesus says **no**, He tells them invite all your neighbors. The poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, even those who are may talk or look different then you. Knowing they will not be able to pay you back.

The wedding banquet Jesus is talking about in his parable is for everyone. It's all inclusive. Everyone is welcome to this place of honor, and the place of honor is not a single seat but an open **space for all who accept Jesus as the Host.**

God does not extend invitations to just those who seem worthy,,,,,,,,, **but to all who will respond.**

In the Words of Jesus.....“for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous”

What is Humility? I like to look at it as what humility is not.

It is not a poor self- image.

St Thomas Aquinas thought that whenever we chose to do a good thing, we make that choice because our heart knows that it will be good for us. Doing that one good thing is something we benefit from.

Which is point Jesus is trying to drive home in today’s Gospel. Sacrificing our time or stepping out of our comfort zone to something good for others, makes us feel good, it supposed to. As long as it is being done for the right reasons, and not for self gain.

Humility is not a denial of our gifts, our abilities and or our accomplishments.

We should be proud of our gifts and abilities. After all, they do come from God.

He wants us to use them. Especially when we are using them to help others. When we use our gifts and our abilities for that reason... **They should bring joy to our hearts.** What we receive from God we are to give back to God by helping others.

The happiness we receive from doing God's work is a happiness that will be in our hearts forever.

When we serve others, we also serve ourselves.

As awkward as it may seem at times to do so. When use these gifts for the right reasons; they can be seen as examples for others to see God's love for them in action.

A love that too many in the world today feel does not exist.

Humility does not mean we should keep quiet and not stand up for our rights and or our beliefs. It does not mean that we allow ourselves to be taken advantage of.

It is our rights as citizens and it is our God given right to be able to say what we believe.

As Christians and especially Catholics our voice needs to be heard on public square

But nevertheless, it should not be done for votes, rewards, or recognition it should be done from the heart. It needs to be done out of love for others.

The hungry want and needs food, the sick want healed, the unemployed need work, immigrants don't want to be torn from their families, **and the unborn want to live...** As Jesus said in today's Gospel, **these are the ones we need to bring to the table.**

This may seem like a fairy tale, or a dream. You might wonder Who's going to listen? Will it really make a difference?.

If acts of kindness are done to impress others, nothing will get done. Egos will get involved and those egos will continue to grow.

Humanitarian work done by humble people never gets the top headlines. Maybe because it doesn't sell or attract viewers.

But ask the Mom who is able to feed her starving child, or give her child the medicine they need, or a family that will not be torn apart. Those are the headlines in **their** lives that really matter.

Our hearts are filled with joy and happiness when we know we are doing God's work.

We need to look no further than Christ to find our perfect example of humility. When He was with us here on Earth, He was humble, but never was quiet.

He never backed down, He never hid, always preaching compassion, and love. He is Gods voice, for everyone to hear. When he was invited to the banquet he was not intimidated by who was there or that his every move was being watched, or that he was being tested. Instead he was doing the watching himself knowing exactly what was going on. He could have sat at the banquet and not caused commotion, but instead he challenged them.

Being humble is not a sign of weakness. It is not being scared.

It is believing that God loves us so much that we can go out make a difference. Even if it is for just a moment in someone's life.

.....Sometimes that's all it takes to change a life.We do not do it for ourselves,,, we do it for the person we are with, the person who needs it most.

However, we do not need to bury the happiness we feel when we can make that difference in someone's life. Why? Because we need that to carry on the work Jesus started and it needs to live in our hearts.

We need to reach out to all we can,,, to let them know that God Love them.

This is our table that Jesus calls us to serve.