

Homily of the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel Jesus is invited to the home of a leading Pharisee, and He watches how the guests choose the places of honor. Then He tells a parable, not just about seating arrangements, but about the deeper attitude of the heart. "When you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place... For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

This is one of the great reversals of the Gospel. We live in a world that seems to push us to seek recognition, but in the Kingdom of God, the way up is down: the path to greatness is humility.

Humility is not weakness. It's not self-hatred or pretending we have no gifts or talents. True humility is honesty, knowing who we are before God. It's recognizing that everything we have is a gift, and that we are called to use those gifts in service of others.

Jesus Himself, though He was God, humbled Himself to become one of us, to serve, to wash our feet, to die on the Cross. If He chose the lowest place, how can we seek the highest?

Jesus goes further. He tells His host: "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind."

This is not just about hospitality, it's about radical inclusion. In the Kingdom of God, no one is excluded. The ones the world forgets are the ones God remembers. The ones the world pushes aside are the ones God lifts up.

Do we welcome those who cannot repay us? Do we serve without expecting recognition?

The first reading of today reminded us that humility is not just a virtue, but a way of life. It shapes how we speak, how we act, how we relate to others.

Where in my life am I seeking the highest place? How can I practice humility in my relationships, my work, my prayer? Who are the "poor and crippled" in my world that I am called to invite? Let us remember: God does not measure us by our titles, but by our love. He does not count our achievements, but our acts of mercy.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Gospel today is not just a story to hear or to tell, it's a call to conversion. Let us choose the lowest place, not to be noticed, but to be near Christ. Let us welcome those who cannot repay us, not for reward, but for love. And let us walk humbly with our God, knowing that in His Kingdom, the last will be first, and the humble will be exalted.

Amen.