November 4, 2019

Scripture

**Luke 14:12-14**

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine
at the home of one of the leading Pharisees.
He said to the host who invited him,
"When you hold a lunch or a dinner,
do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters
or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors,
in case they may invite you back and you have repayment.
Rather, when you hold a banquet,
invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind;
blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.
For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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**Our Scripture Reflection**

Often at dinner in Jesus’ day, a Rabbi was invited to give a talk on a particular subject of interest. But I do not know how welcomed Jesus’ choice of topics would have been considered in today’s Gospel text. He speaks out against the quid pro quo, tit for tat, thinking of His day. Jesus teaches His host and the others at table, that showing hospitality and kindness towards those who have no means of repayment is required in His Kingdom. But if you stop and think about it, is that not how we are treated by God? Who can claim to be worthy to sit one day at God’s eternal banquet table? Are we not all invited to participate because of God’s amazing Grace???

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**Food for your Journey**

Grace turns conventional moral wisdom on its head.
"Nothing is for nothing."
"There is no such thing as a free lunch."
"To each his due."
"Quid pro quo."

In one magic moment of grace, we fly beyond all of these conventional maxims. ...
To be accepted, whether or not we deserve to be accepted, has always been an outrage to careful and rigid moralists. Graceless religion worries that grace will turn a spiritually homeless person into a freeloader.

--Lewis Smedes, Shame and Grace: Healing the Shame We Don't Deserve (HarperCollins, 1994).

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, How could I ever say thank You enough or hope to repay You for the gift of Jesus, Your Only Son? Yet all You ask of me is to live as He lived and to carry out His teaching in the day to day living of my life. Forgive me for those times when I failed to do so. May my gratitude for Your kindness with the help of Your Grace motivate me to change. Amen