

THEME: Parable – The first places and the invitees (guests)

OBJECTIVE: The child must identify in this parable two teachings of Jesus regarding humility and doing good to others without having any personal interest.

BIOGRAPHY:

Lc, 14:1 and 7 to 11

ESE, 7:5 to 6

Gospel Parables (R.Clligaris), number 9

CLASS:

a) Initial incentive: Narration

The teacher will tell the parable to the children as following:

Jesus went to the home of one of the most important Farisees on a Saturday to have a meal. The ones who were there observed the Master, and he took advantage of the moment to give them two

Messages, which can be taken from the Gospel text:

7 – Jesus observed the manner in which the guests were choosing the first places to sit, and told them:

8 – When invited to a wedding, make sure not to sit on the first place, as it could happen someone more dignified than you may have been invited;

9 - And the host come to you and him to say: Give your place to this one; and so ashamed, you will proceed to leave and take the last place;

10 – Instead, when you are invited, go and sit down on the last place, so that when the host arrives he then tells you: Friend, come higher. This way you will have the honor before the others sitting with you at the table.

11 – Hence anyone who exalts himself will be humiliated, and the one with humility will be exalted.

12 – And he went on telling the guests: When you have a dinner, or a meal, don't invite your friends, your brothers, your parents, nor your rich neighbors, so that they will also invite you, and in this way you will be rewarded.

13 – But when you make an invitation, invite the poor, the handicap, the blind

14 – And you will be blessed because they have no way to repay you; however, you will be rewarded at the resurrection of the fair (Lc, 14: 1 and 7 to 14)

b) Development: Exposition.

Jesus, since the beginning of his mission, gave us examples of humility: His simple birth, being a carpenter's son and so he lived with simple people. All proof of his examples of humility. Throughout his passage in earth, he not only taught but also exemplified virtue and humility through his own actions.

Humility is one of the most important amongst all virtues, and it can be revealed in a man through gestures of understanding, modesty, simplicity, kindness, etc.. Humility is the opposite of selfishness and pride.

In the parable "First Places", Jesus meant to give us a guide of conduct that we must adopt in everyday life for our own good. He said that the ones who exalt themselves will be humiliated; and all the ones with humility will be exalted. Kardec, by analyzing the parable, says that spiritism teaches that those who are considered powerful in Earth are the small ones in the Spiritual world. While people who are simple and humble when incarnated, shows themselves as big spirits in the spiritual world. Regarding the first ones mentioned, there is nothing else they can do but to

leave here all their titles, wealthy and earthly glories when it's time to leave this world. But the humble ones take with themselves their acquired virtues developed along time, and it is for this reason they show themselves as happy and splendid spirits in the spiritual world.

Naturally the fact that a person has titles, wealth, and a well distinguished place in the world doesn't mean he/she is destined to be humiliated in the spiritual world. That will depend upon the good or the bad use of which he/she received in Earth. At the same time, we must also notice that poverty is not synonym of humility and that there are many poor people who are arrogant and proud as there are rich people who are simple and humble. But it is easier for the ones who have money, power and titles to become proud. The trial of power, either intellectual or economic, is a difficult trial.

Jesus always called our attention that we must not just do good to the ones we love; we must do good to all indistinctively: "for if you only love the ones who love you, what is your reward? If you only

Esteem your brothers, what else will you do regarding the others?"(Mt, 5:46 and 47)

Through the parable of The First Places and the invitees, Jesus also teaches us that we must do good to others for the sake of doing good, and not for the reward we may receive from doing a good action. Naturally, the Master is not advising we must not invite friends, neighbors, parents to join us for a meal. We shouldn't take his words literally, but we must learn his words in a deeper sense. When the Master teaches in a symbolic sense that we must not invite only our friends, neighbors, and parents he means that we must do good not just to the ones we love, but to all. That we must not only do good to the ones who can give us something in return, for this would be only an exchange, and not a demonstration of service for the good of another. He mentions the handicap, the blind, because during those times, people who had physical defects were marginalized and absolutely poor.

In this parable, Jesus teaches us that we should not be anxious to compete for the "first places" so that we can become distinguished in society; neither for vanity nor personal interest. We must attend to the fact that in case we are called to work for the common welfare, we do it without personal interest. We must be personally disinterested, dedicated to the welfare of others and most of all have a burning desire to serve others. We must serve with love and never expect

anything in return from the ones who are benefited. This must be the behavior of every Christian, for it was in this manner Christ served all.

Do a puzzle with the word HUMILITY

HONNOR

PUNCTUALITY

MODESTY

KINDNESS

LOVE

CHARITY

TRANQUILITY

PRAYER

Write the words at random and let the children figure it out