**Social Status**

**Luke 14:1-23**

**January 27th 2019**

1. **Status Protection VS 1-6**

Pharisees, who invited Jesus to table fellowship to discredit him to protect their social status, were left speechless after Jesus skillfully defended Sabbath healing as fulfillment of God’s saving purposes.

*Those whose social status with others is threatened by Jesus’ disciple(s) will watch for opportunities to discredit said disciple(s) in order to protect their status with or over others.*

1. **Status Promotion VS 7-14**

Jesus taught the posturing Pharisees that heavenly honour awaits those who, in response to the good news, abandon seeking worldly status to become socially inclusive (for the Gospel’s sake).

*Jesus’ disciples abandon divisive social posturing to actively engage with those who have no social currency knowing God will bestow a much loftier enduring honour.*

*Given the opportunity, Jesus’ disciples try to redirect those caught up in gaining worldly social status towards seeking the loftier status God gives.*

1. **Status Suicide VS 15-24**

Jesus’ story tells of one who responds to his teaching to abandon social posturing and proactively embrace socially inclusive table fellowship, a party social snobs would never come to.

*The fear of committing social suicide is a barrier status seekers must overcome in order to follow Jesus and become part of his inclusive community alongside social losers and outcasts.*

**Summary: Proactive social connection with those with little social currency, although creating an additional hurdle for socially elite seekers, is a non-negotiable requirement of making mature multiplying disciples.**

1. Just as Jesus’ fulfilment of Gods’ saving purposes threatened the Pharisees’ social status, so also people today can feel their social status threatened by Jesus’ disciples’ fulfillment of God’s saving purposes.
2. Can you think of possible scenarios in which people may feel their social status with others is being diminished or threatened by the presence or influence of those who live out and share the Gospel?
3. What things could they try to do to protect or regain their influence?
4. In addition to wealth, what are some other forms of social currency that people think will increase their worldly status?
5. After gaining some trust with someone caught up in the pursuit of worldly status, how would you challenge them to abandon that pursuit for the honour God bestows in Christ?

How will you assist them over the hurdle of status suicide to be willing to abandon status seeking and slum with the rest of us in Jesus’ family?

1. Who in the community around this church has little social currency that we could proactively engage for the Gospel’s sake and what could that engagement look like?
2. From a human perspective, what are the draw backs of attempting to grow a church out of those with little social currency?
3. A church in Texas made up of middle class and upwards had two services every Sunday. They had a separate service for the prostitutes and other people with little social currency. Why do you think they would do such a thing?
4. Take some time before the Lord and ask ‘Have I become a social status snob who distances myself from those with little or no social currency or avoids those who have it? Who do I have coffee with, invite into my house, or whose homes do I go to, or interact with on social media?