

**Ben***(Monologue based on Luke 14:1, 7-11)*

You know? It was an incredible party! I definitely felt out of place. You know what it feels like when you're with people who intimidate you. I had never been invited to a party like this before. All the important people were there.

Even Jesus was there! Many were aware he was there, trying to see what he would do. Oh, excuse me, I didn't introduce myself. My name is Ben, and I'm here today to tell you about one of the most memorable days of my entire life. It was the day I heard Jesus tell us how we should live.

Anyway, at this party, all those important people were trying to impress each other. You know, in our country, the one who sits closest to the host is the one who has the greatest honor. Everyone at this party expected to be considered the most famous and recognized guest! I stayed in the background, just watching what was happening, as I said, this was not my usual group of friends.

I had mixed feelings. It made me smile and sad at the same time. No one had real interest in anyone else, nor did they listen to each other. Each person tried to get the best possible spot at the table.

Jesus was frustrated by everything going on; but in the end he reassured people with a powerful and disturbing story:

"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place."

They all became very quiet. Nobody moved a muscle. And Jesus continued speaking.

"But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests.

I've never had the opportunity to return to a luxurious party, but I assure you, I will not forget this one.

Jesus is the most important person who lived on this earth. And yet, he gave his life to serve others. I want to be like Jesus. I hope you do too.

