

# Jesus 101

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“When you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled... and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you.” –Luke 14:13, 14*

The costly, non-refundable wedding reception had been booked at the Ritz Charles hotel in Carmel, Indiana, but the wedding got cancelled just a few days before the event. The bride-to-be contacted several homeless shelters in the area, and the surprised impromptu guests were bused in to the posh location for a high-end dinner they would never forget. Local businesses donated clothing for the guests to wear for this occasion. In the midst of her pain, Ms. Cummins made a decision to act selflessly, and to share with those who couldn't repay her.

The first-century Mediterranean world was an honor/shame-based society. Therefore conventional rules of reciprocity were practiced, especially by the elite. Gifts and invitations were often given with strings attached, leaving the poor and destitute disadvantaged. Jesus frequently challenged these social methods used to secure advantageous relationships. When He realized that some guests had been picking places of honor (Luke 14:7-11), Jesus spoke to them: “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited. . . . For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (verses 8-11). This was a new way of life! But Jesus wasn't done yet. He went on to teach a new way to relate to others, receiving the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and those who couldn't repay (verse 13, 14); in other words, He taught us to welcome the marginalized of society. Who would that be today? The fearful pregnant teenager? The young man who just got out of jail? This is Jesus' method, for He reached out to us and invited us to His banquet table, which we could never repay. May the overflow of the unmerited grace we have received cause us to reach out and gladly receive those who feel alone, diminished, and hopeless.

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins! Daily Devotional*, p. 282