

**St Matthew's Holland Park
Weekly Bulletin 31st August
2025**

*This week's Revd. Morris' message: **Today, Jesus invites us to reexamine our norms of hospitality and generosity. Who will we invite to dine with us this week?***

In today's reading, once again we find Jesus 'at table', sharing a meal and providing very puzzling advice concerning meal etiquette

and guest invitations. So what is this all about?

In Jesus' time, hospitality, manners and mutual reciprocity were key drivers of Jewish society and norms. Who you dined with and the granting of varying degrees of prominence to guests by hosts at table were vital parts of their '*honour and shame*' culture. Your social standing had immense consequences for all of your family and importantly this could impact upon employment opportunities and marriage arrangements for family members. *I guess these issues still resonate with us today in our society.*

In today's reading, all these norms are turned upon their heads. The humble are exalted, the proud humbled and those who are generous providers for others who struggle and can not reciprocate are honoured. Jesus explains that this is how the Kingdom of God works. Its' ways are often the very opposite of our own human instincts.

By the way, Jesus loved being at table with all kinds of folks. In fact this was a key point of criticism of Him by the religious leaders of the day. *Why isn't He a more ascetic Rabbi like John the Baptist and the others? [Luke 7: 31 ff] Look who he is dining with! Sinners and tax collectors! [Luke 5:30]* The inclusive dining table was a **key locus** of Jesus' ministry where He taught, healed and ultimately, on Maundy Thursday, the venue where He instituted our sacraments of foot washing and Communion as well as providing his 'extra commandment' to '*Love one another as I have loved you*'. [John 13:34 +35]

So, what lessons can we take from this gospel reading today?

I wonder :

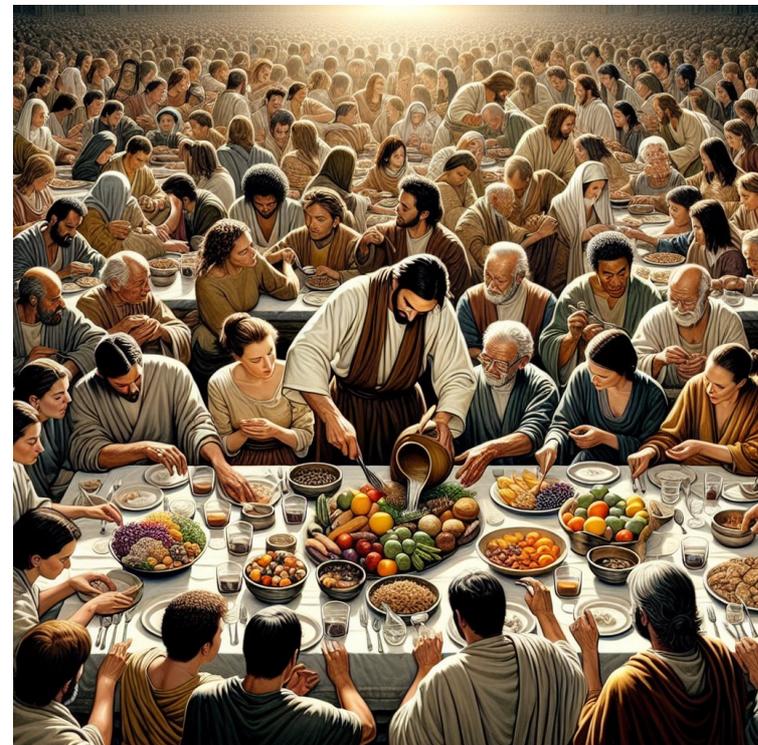
Who do we invite [or won't invite] to join us at our own tables?

How often do we turn off the TV and our mobile phones and share a meal with our own families?

What is discussed at our tables and how are all treated?

What would Jesus have to say about our guest lists and conversations?

Do we pray over, give thanks for and bless our food before eating it?



What motivates our dining invitations?
Do we seek to 'socially promote' ourselves or our family? If so, why and how do we go about this?
Does how we perceive a person's 'social standing' impact the way that we interact with them? If so, what do you do differently?
What are each of us doing to help feed, clothe, house and comfort those who are less fortunate than ourselves?

This week Jesus is inviting us to reflect upon our relationships and interactions with others and our own personal motivations that drive these. He reminds us that each of us is a beloved child of God and worthy of being treated with dignity and respect.

How typical that Jesus happily dined with someone who was trying to trap Him - a senior member of the Pharisees. I wonder what would happen we [or even our world leaders] often sat down at table amicably with those we consider our 'enemies'?

I wonder what Jesus may be calling us to invite to our own table today? And, perhaps, to change what we do and how we act when we are there?

Gospel reading: Luke 14: 1-14 To dig further: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-22-3/commentary-on-luke-141-7-14-3>

Upcoming Parish Activities : *Midweek service - Wednesday @10:30am; Regis Service @11:15 Meditation @ 5 p.m; Bible Study* Wednesday night at Heather's @ 7 pm; *Men's Breakfast* Thursday @ 7 am; *Op Shop* - Thursday 9 am until Noon; *Bible study-* Friday morning 10:00am; *MEGA Sale + BBQ - Saturday 8 am - 1 p.m;***
Behind the scenes thx: Sean and weekly power points
Readings for next Sunday: Jeremiah 18:1-11 ; Ps 139:1-18 ; Philemon 1:1-25; Luke 14: 25-35.**

Parish Directory: Revd Morris Rangiwai: 0449 557 351; morris.Rangiwai@anglicanchurchsq.org.au. ***NB Revd Morris will be on leave until the 3/9/25*** Please refer all pastoral matters to the Wardens.

Wardens: Heather Walker: 0411556 279; hezzie16@gmail.com
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Bank Details: Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760.

Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ; ***Public Site:*** <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.

