



## ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> 2025 PEBBLES

Based on Luke 14:1, 7-14

*'On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat they were watching him closely.*

*When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'*

*He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'*

### **SEEING YOURSELF BIGGER THAN WHAT YOU ARE!**

Do you have a balloon in your house? If you do can you go and get one. You see a balloon is a very simple and fun toy not only for you, but also for your mum, dad, grandparents, aunties and uncles and everyone. We see balloons used at parties as a game, for water fights on a very hot summer's day, for decorations, and when people want to say whether they are going to have baby boy or girl. They are used for all kinds of things. Sometimes the long balloons are used to make different shapes. So, I think I can say balloons are a lot of fun and bring lots and lots of smiles of joy and happiness, BUT, they can also bring a lot of disappointments and when they burst and make a lot of noise they can make children and babies cry. Have you ever cried when a balloon bursts?

Sometimes we are just like a balloon especially when we see ourselves more important or bigger than we really are -start to blow up your balloon. We think we are great and we expect other people to think that way about us as well – put some more air in your balloon. Maybe we are really good in sports – more air in the balloon. Perhaps it's because we think we can win spelling bees at school – more air in your balloon- or something else that you think you're good at – keep blowing. Sooner or later, if we keep making out we are bigger or more important than everyone around us, something will happen to burst our balloon, or make us realise we aren't any better than everyone else. We are humbled by the people around us.

Jesus warned us that this would happen. The Bible teaches us that if we are too proud and think too highly of ourselves, we are headed for a fall. On the other hand, if we are humble, and realise that it's through God's strength that we are able to do great things, we will be given a place of honour in the kingdom of God.

From now on, when you see or play with a balloon, I hope it will remind you that we shouldn't 'too big for our boots' (that might be an expression that you will have ask an older person to explain to you) – get too full of your own importance – or something might just come along and burst your balloon!

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help me to be humble. Remind me that whatever abilities I have are a gift from you and that you are the one who deserves the praise! These things I pray to you in your holy name amen.



**'Happy are those people who are fair, who do what is right at all times.' Psalm 106:3**

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# A Lesson in Humility

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 14:7-14



M P V G E S M P E M D Q I F T  
U C M L T G K D A Y P X Z T U  
Z C B S L M O K F E A S T N M  
G A E S X Z B N D L B P M U D  
T U S P C L H O N O R L G A X  
G Z S Z B R K V L A M E I G Y  
C D E O I A A E L E A S T N M  
B I A V N A H R A S Q Q K X D  
J N T X V P W L C U V X S D Q  
F N A Y I L P E X A L T T H W  
Z E T C T J L Z V D R A B L T  
R R B I E B Y P O O R W E S K  
U I U V M M O S T F E R O P S  
J D C U M P B X T F R I E N D  
J F H H F R H U T M O B G M N

POOR  
FRIEND  
LAME

EXALT  
SEAT  
INVITE

FEAST  
TABLE  
GUESTS

HONOR  
HUMBLE  
LEAST

DINNER  
RICH  
BLIND

# A Lesson in Humility



"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	K	F	E	L	B	U	N	J	M	Q	O	X	I	W	G	V	P	R	S	H	T	C	Z	D	Y

- 14-8-17-14-22-4-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-7-4-20-22-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-13-1-5-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21-7-10-6-5-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21-12-8-12-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-5-1-23-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-4-25-25-14-8-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3-4-1-20-22 \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS	FEAST	HUMBLE	HONOR
WEDDING	PLACE	EXALT	INVITED



colour each balloon a different colour for the ways you help other people to be happy

