

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled but the one who humbles himself shall be exalted.”

Luke 14: 10

Who goes around exalting themselves? Well, actually I don't think we often even think about things like that. On the other hand, there are attitudes we have about ourselves and about others that influence what we do and how we see things. As a general rule, I find the people are pretty attuned to those moments when they believe they are being treated with disrespect or looked at with disdain or treated rather dismissively by another person. People know when this is happening to them and they do not like it at all. I also think that there are some who take a proactive approach as they move through life.

Jesus says that we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us. There is a care and a compassion to that mindset. But there are some in life whose attitude is: I am going to do unto others before they can do unto me.” That attitude is aggressive and usually keeps others off guard and a bit defensive. The thinking is drawn from the world of sports. The best defense is a good offense. So, go on the offensive. We must ask ourselves though: Is it possible to go on the offensive and not give offense? Is it possible to go on the offensive without exalting oneself above others?

And isn't that what Jesus is saying here in the gospel for today? There are plenty of people who are important and who know they are important. Some enjoy throwing their weight around and some do not. Some are kind and some are anything but. Jesus' message is simple. God loves humility. Humility is another word for Truth. Humility is Truth. Christ himself was humble and content to take the lower place even if he didn't get invited up higher. Can we say that of ourselves? The question of the week.