

### THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled  
But everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.”  
(Luke 14: 11)

The single sentence immediately above this text speaks about those who exalt themselves. Is that how you think? Do you ever actually say to yourself, “You know, I think I have been over-exalting myself recently?” Is that how we even think? What I find is that I am much more able to identify such a trait or activity in someone else than in myself. I can recognize a braggart or someone who in my estimation is “full of themselves.” I recognize anyone whom I believe takes themselves too seriously or who has begun to think of themselves as above the rest of us.

But there is then the stratosphere of earthly life, inhabited by celebrities, actors and actresses, sports superstars, business tycoons, media moguls, tech superstars, national and international political leaders. It comes to me rather easily and readily to think of any number of these fellow human beings who have a very exalted sense of themselves where the rules which apply to the rest of us do not apply to them.

But there are certain things which are common to all of us. Pretty common almost everywhere today is a growing sense of entitlement. I’m entitled to various things. Or I should be. “Aren’t I entitled to a little happiness?” “Shouldn’t I have things break my way occasionally?” “I’m entitled to a decent place to live, a good standard of living, a good paying job with benefits, excellent schools for my kids.” Is any of that too much to ask?

Then again, the Incarnate Son of God, comes into this world born in a stable, of rather poor parents in a backwater part of the world with very few advantages or any kind of luxuries. He says of himself that the Son of Man has no where to lay his head. But Jesus seems okay with this. Not the most, not always the best but often just a little. And then at the end he is raised from death itself. How counter-intuitive is the way of the Lord? The question of the week.