



*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

September 1, 2019

Proverbs 25:6-7  
Psalm 112  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14



**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

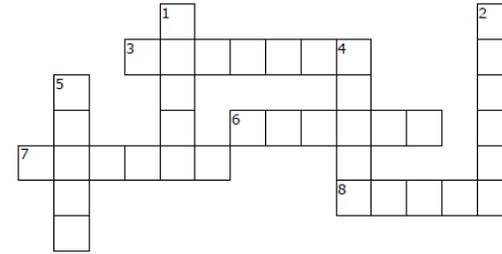
Good Morning! Have you ever seen a dog or a cat chase their own tail? Did you think it was funny? Why did you think it was funny? Because they just go around and around and around in circles? Because its kind of cute? Because they are chasing something they already have? [be sure to say this one yourself, if one of the kids do not say it] It's silly to watch isn't it? Can you imagine that dog or cat chasing their tail every hour of every day all day long forever?!!! Then it'd stop being funny, because they're spending their whole life chasing something they already have! Then it would change from being kind of silly to being kind of sad, right?

In today's Gospel from Luke, the Pharisees are watching Jesus very carefully to see how close Jesus will sit to the person who is having everyone over for the dinner. This person who is having everyone over is called the host. The idea was that the closer Jesus sat to the host, the more important Jesus thought himself to be. If that doesn't make much sense, think of it like a race: The closer you sat to the host, the closer you were to winning the race. But Jesus knew that he didn't need to win a race or sit in the best seat. Which is why Jesus then tells the Pharisees why they, like him, don't need to win the race or care about where everyone sits. Jesus basically tells them, "Why do you care about getting first place to prove that you are important? You are chasing what you already have. God already likes and loves and honors and respects you. God already thinks you are important!"

What Jesus tells the Pharisees is a good thing for us to remember for ourselves as well. God is already offering us God's love, respect, honor and glory, which means we don't need to chase after it or try to get it from other people. We don't need to be like the dog or cat that chases its tail all the time. Instead, we can receive these gifts of love, respect, honor and glory from God and then share those gifts with the people around us who don't yet know that God loves, honors and respects them, too.

Let's pray. God, you love us so much and we are all equal in your eyes. Not one of us is better than any other of your children because you love us all the same. Help us to share your love with all the world. Amen.

*Crossword Puzzle*



ACROSS

- 3. A marriage ceremony and any celebrations which follow it
- 6. A person whom you know well and like a lot
- 7. To ask someone to go somewhere with you
- 8. A flat piece of furniture with four legs where we eat our meals

DOWN

- 1. A large meal for many people
- 2. Not proud or not believing that you are important
- 4. A person who has been invited to a social occasion, such as a party or a meal
- 5. To show great respect for someone, especially in public

|        |         |        |        |
|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| GUEST  | FEAST   | HONOR  | INVITE |
| FRIEND | WEDDING | HUMBLE | TABLE  |

**Activity:** Using construction paper, draw and cut out several colorful hearts. On those hearts, write the words "God thinks you're important!" and "You are loved!". Hand these out to those who may need to be reminded this week. This is a wonderful gift to those who may be sitting alone at lunch time at your school. You may be the friend that they are looking for.

**Discussion Question:** Have you ever been left out of a group or not invited to a party? How did that make you feel? God's love is for EVERYONE, no exceptions and God needs us to remind people of that. As you start back to school, be on the lookout for those who may be new or having a hard time fitting in. How can you help that person feel welcome?

**Family Table Prayer for September:**

For back to school  
New friends to meet  
For books and teachers, too  
For family time and meals together  
LORD, we thank YOU!

**September Memory Verse:** Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."



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