

**Kailua Christian Church**  
**Sunday, August 28, 2022**  
**Worship Service**  
**Guest Pastor: Rev. Kyle Lovett**  
**Sermon Title: "Flipping Tables"**

Scripture Reading:

**Luke 14:1, 7-14** (Common English Bible - CEB)

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely.

When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. “When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don’t take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, they will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

Message:

Remember when we used to memorize a Bible verse a week? Use this paraphrase of Sunday’s text as a memory verse this coming week: Luke 14:1

“Jesus went to eat a meal at the home of one of the prominent members of the community; and people were watching Jesus closely.”

Who are you going to have dinner with, and who knows about it?

You and I live in a culture and in a context where who you know and who you’re connected to is one of the most important things. It’s the stew in which we steep.

The Bible is filled with acknowledgement that that’s the way the world works.

Powerful men insist on wielding their power, right down to who sits where at the dinner table.

Once our awareness shifts, we can see this in our lives.

We can align our hearts and actions more closely with biblical values and the specific witness of Jesus, by paying attention.

Try spending this week with the memory verse.

See if you can start to notice when this form of social debt and patronage are happening around you.

How are we living so that others will know, will see, how we as Christians flip the tables on the patronage system and follow the teachings of Jesus or radical egalitarianism?

The power we respect is God's power, not that of man.

The love we show comes from God, and it is for everyone.

=== Amen.