



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

31 August 2025

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan (Pastoral)

**Luke 14:1, 7-14 (NLT)**

### Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

14 One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely.

### Jesus Teaches about Humility

7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice:

8 "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited?"

9 The host will come and say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!

10 "Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests.

11 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

12 Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward.

13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

### Other Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalms 81:1, 10-16  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16



### Meg's Musings

It's only a fortnight since I wrote that the blossoms were just beginning to show themselves.

Now, after several warm, sunny days the blossoms seem to be at their beautiful best as I write this.

With some windy days to come, I'm enjoying God's handiwork before it gets blown to pieces.

Seeing the beauty of the blossoms reminds me of the words of Ecclesiastes 3, that God has created a time, and a place for everything.

We have a God who has time for beauty, time for joy, and time to connect with us.

Do you have the time to say, "Thank-you God"?

*Blessing from Meg*



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Judy Lennon. She is home from hospital, but she will still need lots of prayer and support over the next few months.
- We pray for everyone in the Middle East - citizens, aid workers, journalists.
- We thank God for the beauty of spring.
- We pray for politicians in Australia, and throughout the world - for wisdom, integrity and compassion.
- We pray for all of our friends - those nearby and far away.

### CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

**7 September** ~ Meg Mangan

**14 September** ~ Rev Geoff Flynn

**21 September** ~ Meg Mangan

**28 September** ~ Rev Sam Sadrata



### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

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..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus

# 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

~ Sermons 4 Kids

POOR	EXALT	FEAST	HONOR	DINNER
FRIEND	SEAT	TABLE	HUMBLE	RICH
LAME	INVITE	GUESTS	LEAST	BLIND



*"Don't walk behind me;  
 I may not lead.  
 Don't walk in front of me;  
 I may not follow.  
 Just walk beside me  
 and be my friend."*



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday**  
**& Saturday**

Op Shop news. 5 items of clothing for \$5 (not including Top Shelf) will continue until 11th September, when the new seasons clothing will be available. Great bargains still on offer.

***Cuppa and a chat always available.***

## Minister's Weekly Reflection

### Parable of the Dinner Party

This Sunday the Tamworth Regional Churches are sharing a meal at Hallsville following our combined service. As I was preparing for this service, I realised that our shared meal provides a wonderful opportunity for us to respond to the teaching of Jesus in Luke 14:7-14.

Jesus is teaching us about the kingdom of God through a parable of a wedding banquet—one of life's biggest celebrations. Weddings are events that reveal who we are because they gather all the people who are most important to us in one place.

This is how it is with most dinner parties. You invite the people you know and like and who are mostly very like you yourself. Or who are aspiring to be like you. Or who you are aspiring to be like. I'm not saying this judgementally - I'm saying that it's human nature to entertain that way.

Which is what makes Jesus such a terrible guest. Look at him misbehaving in Luke 14. Firstly, he tells the guests off for competing for the best seats at the table. And then he criticizes his host for only inviting his friends, family and well-off neighbours. The guests, Jesus says, should take the least desirable seats first so that they can enjoy the experience of being invited higher up the table later on; the hosts, he says, should be out inviting the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, anyone who can't repay them, anyone who they definitely aren't aspiring to be like.

So, on Sunday which seat will you chose to sit in given that there will be no reserved seats? And who will you invite to the Service? Will you sit in the back row in the hope of being invited forward and will you avoid sitting in the front row in case you are seen to be claiming a seat of honour. I find it interesting that at weddings, baptisms and funerals Australians are very careful to make sure the important people sit in the front row, yet when it comes to regular church services the back row is often viewed as the most desirable. Will you sit with friends from your congregation, or will you choose to sit with someone you don't know so that you might make a new friend.

Friends, Luke offers us a parable that points us towards what it means to be in the kingdom of God. It would be easy for us to want to take this parable and make it a blueprint and try to enact it to the letter, but Jesus is pushing us to examine who we value and include, and those we exclude and write off especially those in our Christian family.

Rev Geoff



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus