



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 31, 2025

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Milwaukee Brewers fans are having a fun year this year as the team is doing well. There has been some speculation that the late Bob Uecker, the Brewers announcer for many years, has been working overtime in heaven on behalf of the Brewers. If he is, he is doing a great job.

Uecker became famous through Miller Lite Beer commercials. His most famous one is when he goes into a baseball stadium and speaks of how famous he is as an ex-major league baseball player and once he is recognized he probably won't have to pay for his Miller Lite Beer. An usher comes to him to tell him he is in the wrong seat. He exclaims, "I must be in the front row!" The commercial ends with him being in the upper deck of the stadium, far from the action.

Our readings today speak of the value of humility. One of the characteristics of a humble person is they are able to laugh at themselves in a healthy way. Bob Uecker could laugh at himself.

When a person lacks humility the sins of pride – of gossip are very evident.

Sirach tells us in the first reading, "My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God."

What does it mean to be humble?

It's not about putting ourselves down. Rather it is about putting ourselves in the proper space. It is not talking less about ourselves, it is talking about ourselves less.

Briefly, I would suggest, first, that as humble people we are not surprised by our human weakness, faults or sins. We are not perfect and will make mistakes. We try to do our best, but we will fall short at times. We are human.

Second, we realize we are not in total control. We have our limits. Humility is based on truth. We depend on other people and the Lord in our life. We do not fly solo. It is about "we", not "me" in the long run.

Third, we do not raise our eyebrows – so to speak – over the falls of others, which social media loves to do. We are no better than they are. They are human just like us. Forgiveness and a deep compassion is necessary every day.

That is why we are not looking for the place of honor at the wedding banquet, that the Lord refers to in his parable in the Gospel. We are not looking for the "front row."

The Lord is telling us that all seats at the heavenly banquet are reserved for the humble.

It is with good reason we bow before we receive the bread of life or blessing during communion. We are lucky – blessed to be invited to this banquet today.

Bringing Home the Word Prayer