



## The Best Seat at the Table

By Thanh Linh

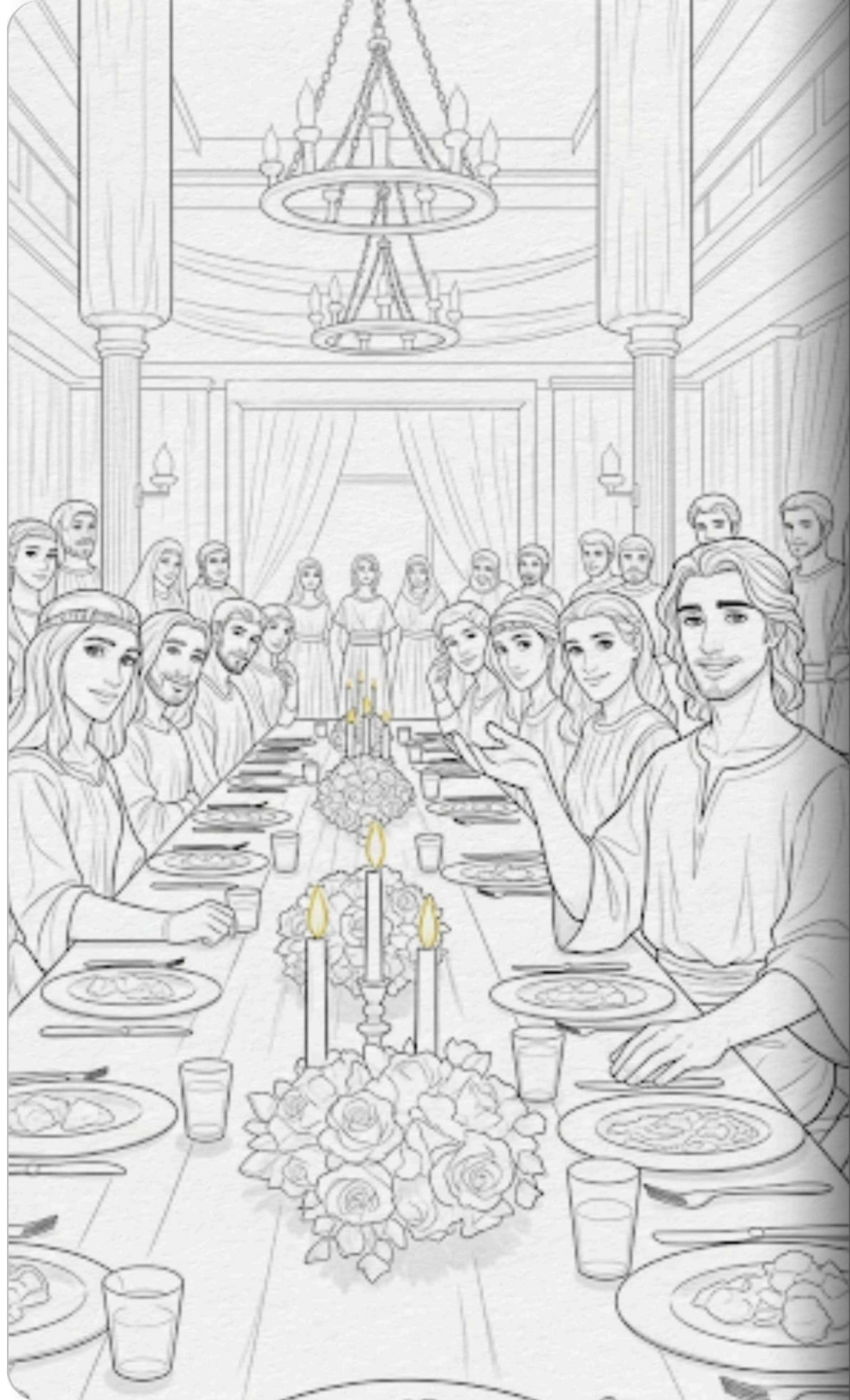


On a sabbath, a kind teacher named Jesus went to have dinner at the home of a very important man. The other guests watched Jesus closely, wondering what he would do.





Jesus watched as the guests arrived. He noticed how they all hurried to choose the best seats, the places of honor right next to the host.



Seeing this, Jesus decided to tell them a story. "When someone invites you to a wedding feast," he said, "do not sit down in the most important seat."



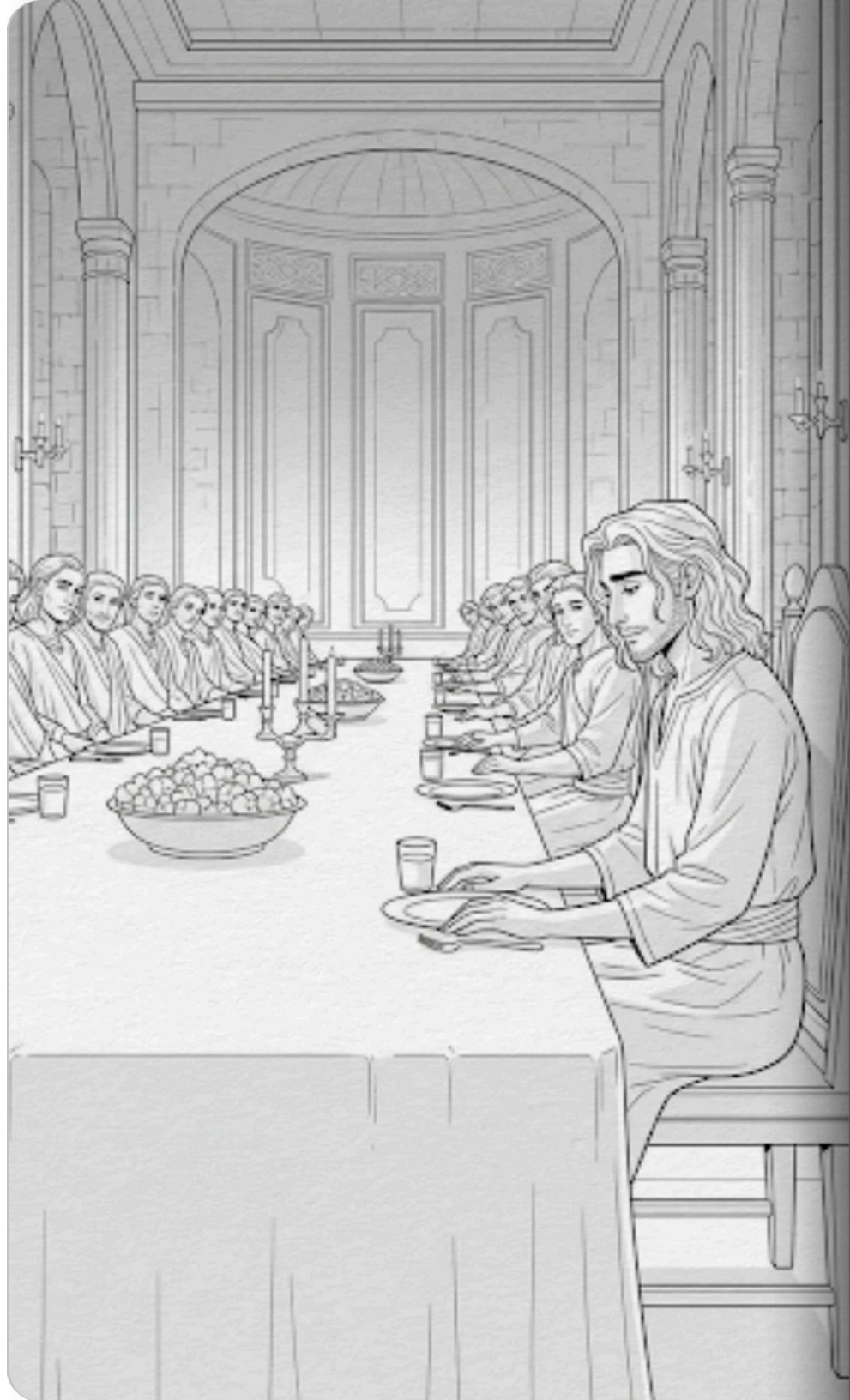


"What if," Jesus continued,  
"someone more distinguished  
than you has also been invited?  
The host who invited you both  
might have to come and say,  
'Please give this person your  
seat.'"

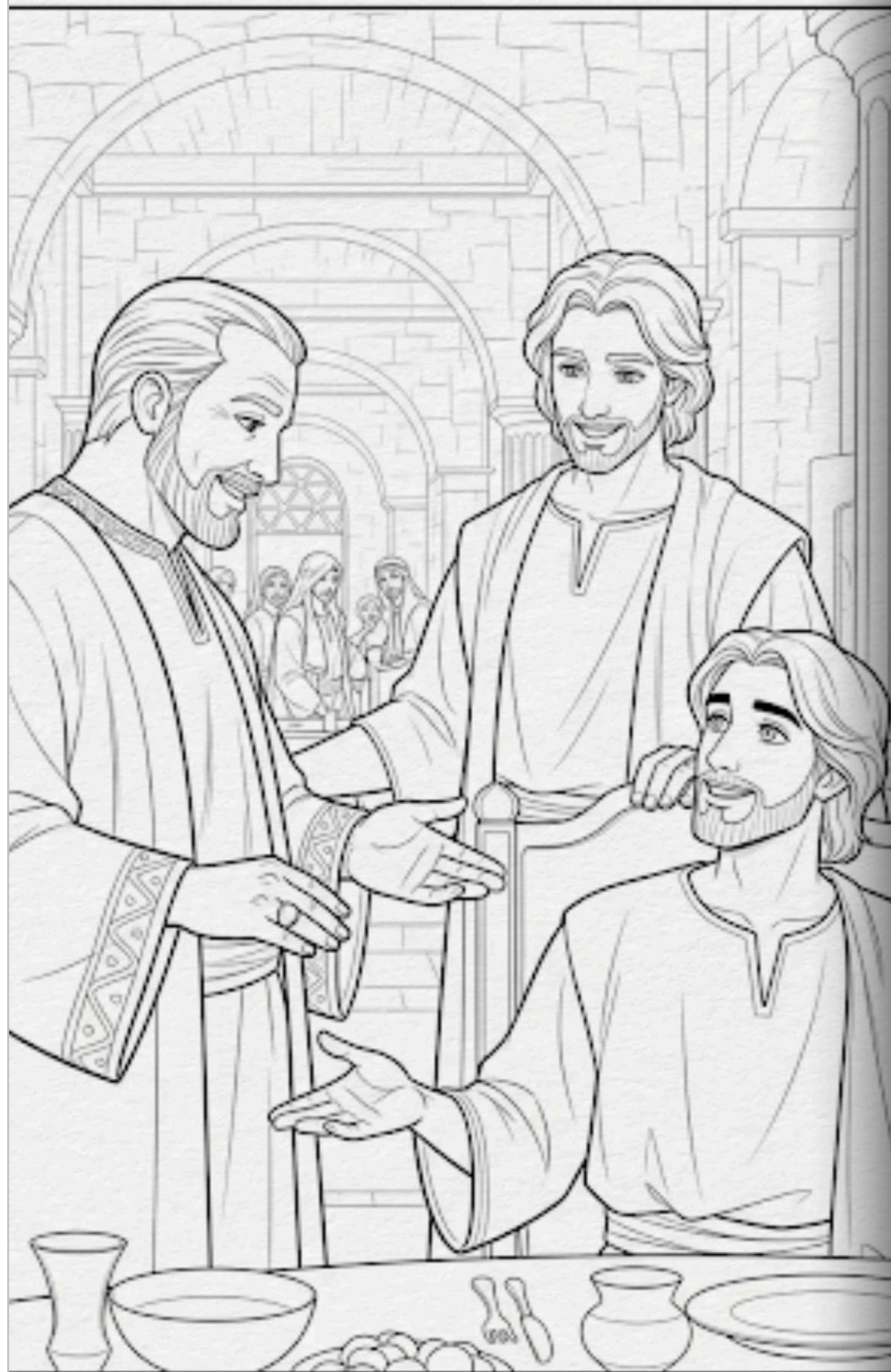


"How embarrassing it would be to have to move to the lowest place in front of everyone!"



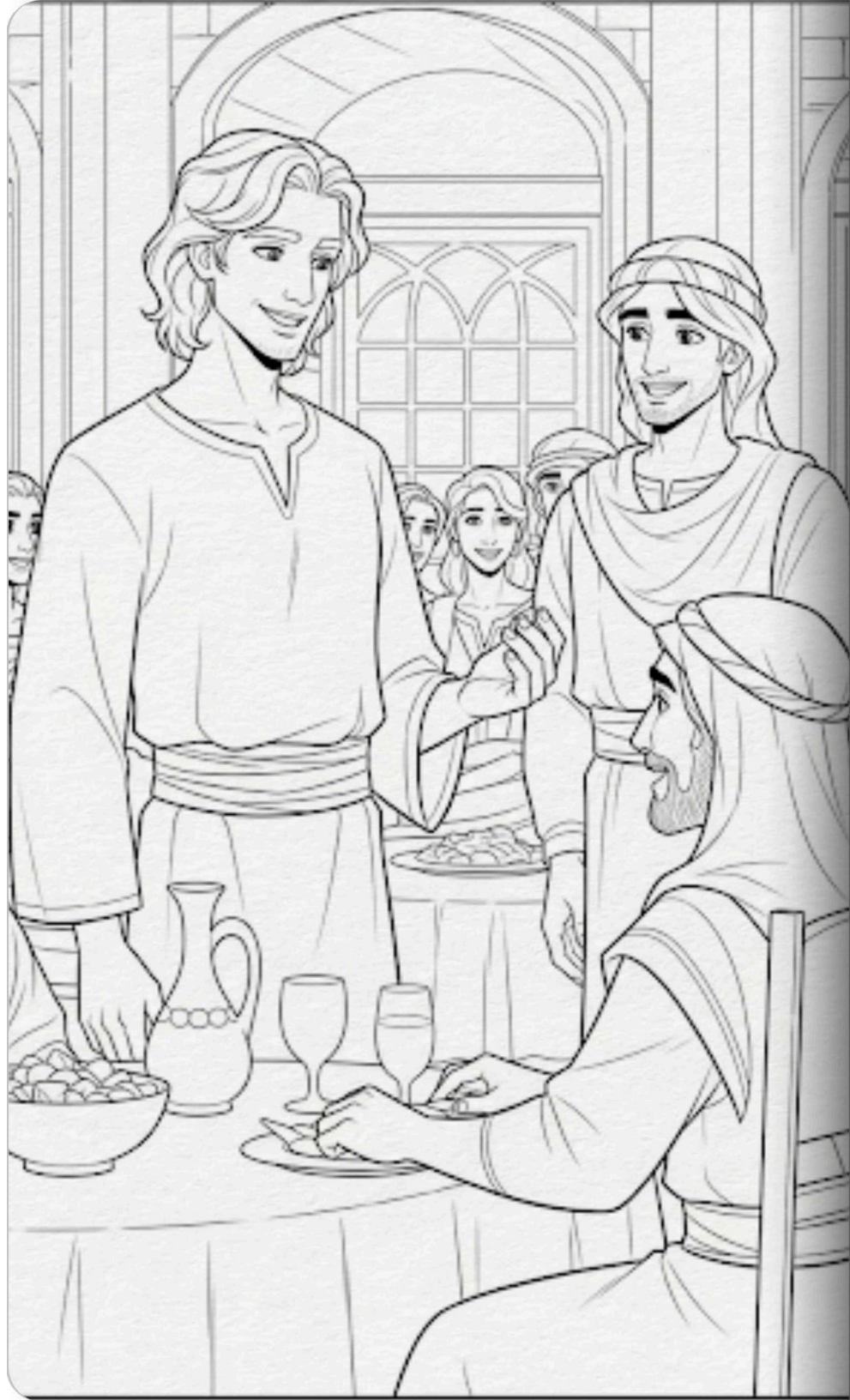


"Instead, when you are invited,  
go and sit in the lowest place. Be  
humble."

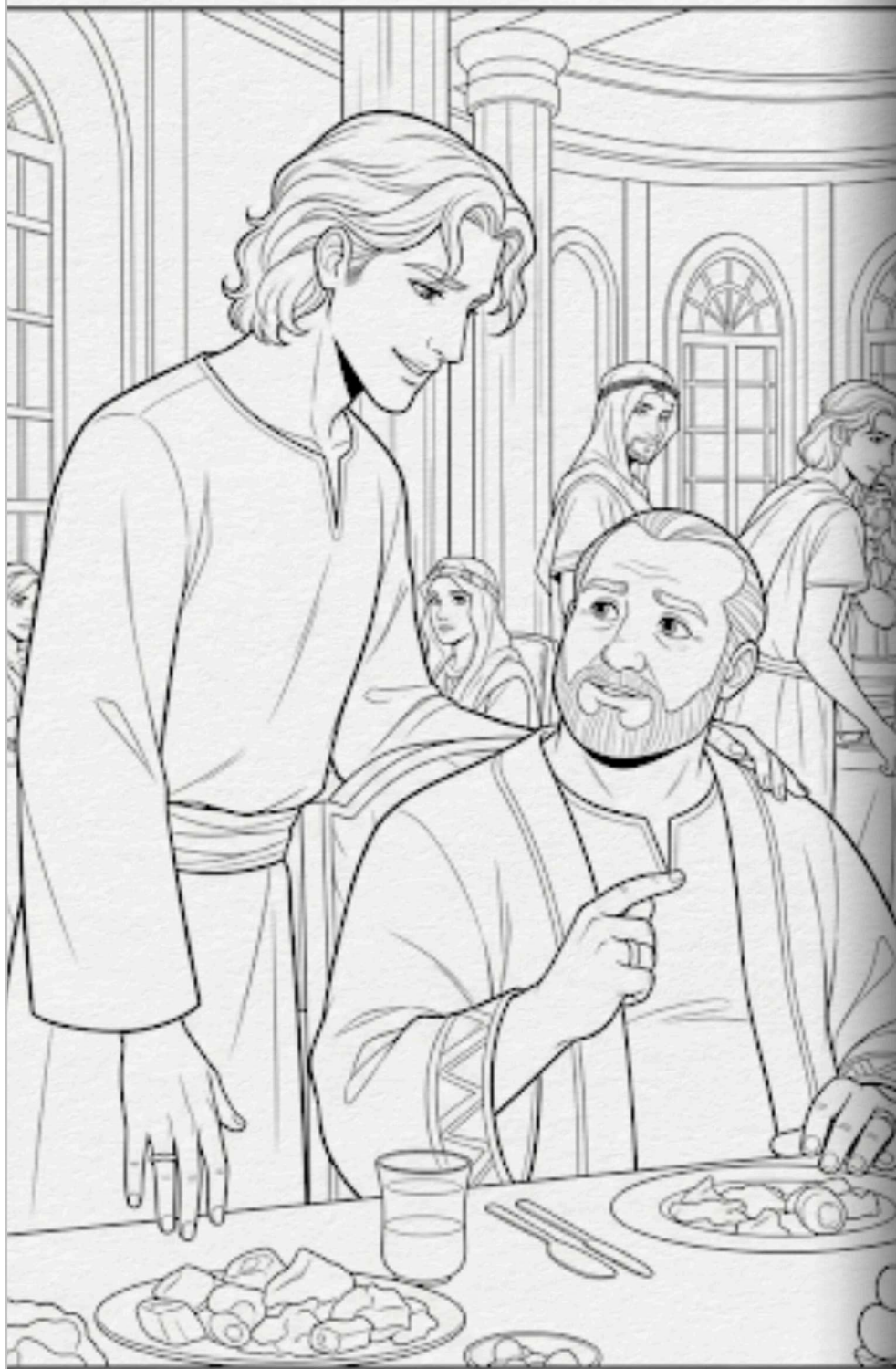


"Then, when your host comes, he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position!' You will be honored in front of all the other guests."





"For everyone who lifts himself up will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be lifted up."



Then, Jesus turned to the man who had invited him. "When you give a dinner, do not just invite your friends, your family, or your wealthy neighbors who can pay you back."





"Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. You will be blessed because they cannot repay you. Your reward will come from a place far greater."