

A PICKLE
Luke 14:7-11

“Pickle” is a baseball term. When you are “caught in a pickle,” you are trapped between two bases with your opposing players tossing the ball back and forth around you. You don’t know where to turn and you are almost always tagged out. The devil often tempts us into a “pickle.” If we want to be great in the kingdom, we are to be the servant of all. But, if we are serving in order to be great, we are really only serving ourselves. If we humbly accept the thanks and praise of others, we are often tempted to believe them and let their appreciation change our behavior as we begin to depend on the opinion of others.

Characters: Retiree (female), boss, 4 coworkers

The scene – _____’s retirement party.

The guests: her boss and co-workers.

Boss: We are REALLY going to miss you around here.

Retiree: And I’ll miss all of you too!

Coworker 1: There she is, the queen bee herself!

Coworker 2: Yeah, everybody bows down and she just laps it up.

Boss: We’ve put on quite a spread. You should be the first in line.

Retiree: There’s some people here that I’d like to talk to first.

Coworker 1: See! She’s still networking and schmoozing with boss.

Coworker 2: She’s probably still negotiating her retirement package.

Boss: There’s plenty of time for that later. We expect this celebration to go on all afternoon.

Retiree: All afternoon? Is there going to be enough food? Should I check the kitchen supplies?

Coworker 1: Oh no! Now she wants to inspect the kitchen.

Coworker 2: What? The food on the table isn’t good enough for her?!?!?

Boss: We catered the whole thing in your honor. Just get some food, sit down, and relax.

Retiree: (laughs) Like a queen on her throne? You know, that’s not the way I work.

Coworker 3: Isn’t that just like her? She’s checking to be sure there is enough food for all of us.

Coworker 4: That is so “_____!” Always looking out for the little guy.

Boss: But that’s the point. You are no longer working. This is our time to honor all of the hard work that you have put in.

Retiree: Oh look, there’s Sam! He was the person who hired me all those many years ago.

Coworker 3: I found a prototype of her first project design and wrapped it up for her as a gift. It’s in that green box on the table where people are signing cards.

Coworker 4: It’s no wonder that everyone is here. She has always been willing to help us out when we hit a wall.

Boss: You've come a long way since then, and you worked hard to get this far. You have been very important to our company.

Retiree: It was hard work, but over the years I have learned a lot. I am hoping that my replacement will be a quick learner. I wouldn't want the loss of my skills to slow down the company's growth.

Coworker 3: What do you think of her replacement? He's a bit young...

Coworker 4: She said she's impressed by him, and that he should be an asset for a long time to come.

Boss: You've done a great job training your replacement, although he's still got a long way to go before he can fill your shoes.

Retiree: (laugh) If you keep talking like that, I'll soon be asking for a raise instead of my retirement package!

Coworker 1: I don't see why they had to go outside of the company to find her replacement.

Coworker 2: Yeah, there are plenty of us who could do her job.

Boss: (laugh) Okay! Seriously, everyone is waiting for you to get the food line started.

Retiree: I know. (sigh) I've been stalling. Although I've taken the lead in a lot of our work projects, being at the head of the line for food is new to me.

Coworker 3: I'm going to miss our gab sessions over lunch.

Coworker 4: Do you suppose she will want to get together with us outside of work?

Boss: Well, being the boss is NOT new to me, and right now I am ordering you to go first and get some food. I'll follow you so that the rest of your coworkers will know that the food is ready and available.

Retiree: (salute) Thanks for giving me my marching orders. I'll fill my plate and then go do some reminiscing with those who have worked with me. I've a lot to be thankful for.

Coworker 1: It is about time! My stomach is groaning loud enough to be the emcee at this celebration!

Coworker 2: Watch her! I bet she sits down next to the boss and bends his ear for the rest of the day.

Coworker 3: Here she comes! Shall we ask her about our plan now?

Coworker 4: Yes! Let's get our once-a-month reunions going asap.

THE END