



Humble Yourself

Luke 18:9–14

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

October 23, 2016

Thoughts for the Week

Scripture: Psalm 121.1

I had a friend that was considering joining an organization, much like the Peace Corps, and he thought about this so much that he even dreamed about it. He related to me that in his dream he had the opportunity to travel with some other youth colleagues, to Cape Town. He said it was like one of those 'life changing' experiences in all sorts of senses.

He stated that, "the place that had the greatest impact on me was a place called 'Sweet Home Farm'. This is one of the many massive townships, populated by thousands of families, now their permanent home." "This was something I read about and saw many pictures similar to a National Geographic article." I felt like I was really there."

"We were looked after by the local Priest, Father Joy, who was indeed full of joy despite the seemingly grim surroundings. (You know how dreams are, he actually looked a lot like my Uncle Phil) We visited a lady called Christina (who looked like my 12th grade History teacher). She cooked our lunch for us. We sat at white plastic tables in her shack, which was actually a community cafe – eating what turned out to be the most delicious chicken and rice. I remembered, to my shame, that my fear had caused me to expect something unpleasant and the reality was the complete opposite. Chickens wandered in and goats wandered by, somewhat surreal but somehow holy and hopeful."

We wandered on through the township and came to a small group of older women; they sat in a community meeting room. There was a spirit of despair. It seems that they were all widows. As we went in, they greeted us as long lost friends with hugs. And then they asked us to pray with them. As we prayed tears poured down all our faces. These women seemed to hold on to hope in God in the middle of their struggle." "When I woke up from my dream, I went to my Bible and read: Psalm 121.1.

'I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth'."

Happy Birthday—Jim(10/26), Dorian(10/26), Karen(10/29)

Twelve Ways to Humble Yourself

Billy Graham

Routinely confess your sin to God. Weekly, even daily, review of our hearts and behaviors, coupled with confession to God, is an essential practice of humility.

Acknowledge your sin to others. A true test of our willingness to humble ourselves is willingness to share with others the weaknesses we confess to God. Wisdom, however, dictates that we do so with others that we trust.

Take wrong patiently. Patiently responding to the unjust accusations and actions of others demonstrates our strength of godly character and provides an opportunity to put on humility.

Actively submit to authority. How purposely and actively do you work on submission to those whom God has placed as authorities in your life? Doing so is a good way to humble yourself.

Receive correction and feedback from others graciously. Look for the kernel of truth in what people offer you, even if it comes from a dubious source. Always pray, "Lord, what are you trying to show me through this?"

Accept a lowly place. Resolve to support others being recognized, rather than you. Accept and look for the lowly place; it is the place of humility.

Purposely associate with people of lower state than you. Our culture is very status conscious and people naturally want to socialize upward. Resist the temptation of being partial to those with status or wealth.

Choose to serve others. When we serve others, we are serving God's purposes in their lives. Doing so reduces our focus on ourselves and builds the Kingdom of God. When serving another costs us nothing, we should question whether it is really servanthood.

Be quick to forgive. To forgive is to acknowledge a wrong that has been done us and also to further release our right of repayment for the wrong. Forgiveness is not insisting on our way and our justice.

Cultivate a grateful heart. The more we develop an attitude of gratitude for the gift of salvation and life He has given us, the more true our perspective of self. A grateful heart is a humble heart.

Resolve to speak well of others. Saying negative things about others puts them "one down" and us "one up." Speaking well of others edifies them and builds them up unless, however, what you say is intended as flattery.

Treat pride as a condition that always necessitates embracing the cross. It is our nature to be proud and it is God's nature in us that brings humility. Committing to a lifestyle of daily dying to ourselves and living through Him is the foundation for true humility.