



Stepping Down into Humility

Discovering our true selves before God

The Secret of Humility

- “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God...” (1 Pet 5:6).
- “For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:14).
- Seeking humility is like standing on a cliff looking across the valley far below and hearing God tell us to keep going.

Examples of Humility

The Humility of Paul (2 Cor 12:7)

“And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself!” (2 Cor 12:7)



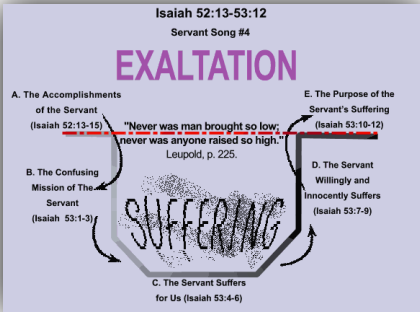
- Paul was tempted with pride
- God gave him a thorn
- Circumstances can help us keep from temptation
- Should we try to get out of difficult situations

“And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor 12:9-10)

- Instead of deliverance, strength was provided
- “I will rather boast about my weaknesses”
- Difficulties enable Christ to be great, ourselves small

The Humility of Jesus Isaiah 52:13-15

13 Behold, my Servant will act wisely; He will rise up, be lifted up, he will be exalted on high. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, so his appearance was disfigured so to lose resemblance with man, so his form was marred beyond recognition as a man. 15 Just so he will sprinkle many nations; and kings will shut their mouths because of him; for that which they were not told, they will see; and that which they have not heard, they will understand.



- God’s mission of success (13) requires sacrifice
- Popularity is not necessary for success (14)
- God can work through difficulties to carry out plan

The Humility of Moses (Psalm 90)

1 Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” 3 Thou dost turn man back into dust, And dost say, ‘Return, O children of men. 4 For a

- thousand years in Thy sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night” (Ps 90:1-4)
- Life dependent (1) | Exalt God’s eternity (2) | Remember our humble origins (3)
 - Bound in time (4) | Under judgment (7) | Exposed (8) | Frailty of old age (9)
 - Gaining wisdom (12)
 - Life for Moses did not begin until Yahweh God had met Him by the burning bush (Ps 90:10).
 - Destruction of self-confidence (Ps 90:1-6)
 - Revelation of our sin (Ps 90:7-12)
 - God begins a new work (Ps 9

Jesus, the Pioneer of Humility (Ph

#1 View: Correct View of Self

- “Do nothing from selfishness or e
- Chemicals | All are sinners | All v

#2 View: Correct View of Others

- “...With humility of mind let each another as more important than h
- Others are more important
- Proper to consider oneself as less important
- Not just politeness but “with humility of mind”

3 Big Steps Dow

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:9-11).

- God does exalting as well as humbling
- The example is for us to humble ourselves
- In contrast to Christ, He deserves all glory and praise.

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (Lk 14:27).

Questions on Humility

Suffering and Humility

- Sickness | sin | design | persecution | death
- “Being ‘low’ does not mean being humble. Humble circumstances is not equivocated with humble heart.

Humility and Rewards (Is 52:13-15)

- God’s mission of success (13) requires sacrifice
- Popularity is not necessary for success (14)
- God can work through difficulties to carry out plan

Humility and Leadership

- Humility and leadership seem to be contradictory to each other.
- What traits are associated with success? With humility?
- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mk 10:45)

MOSES’ LIFE

Pharaoh's Palace
First 40 years
Power & Riches & Rulership

Man's work stemmed from self-confidence.
Danger: Education, riches and power tends to build our confidence in our skills rather than in the one who Gave us the skills.
Psalm 90:1-6

Dry Desert
Second 40 years
Runaway & Poor & Shepherd

Man's work held back by lack by self-pity.
Danger: we mistakenly believe we are important to God. We are secretly bitter against God in our situation in life.
Psalm 90:1-6

God's Journey
Third 40 years
God's staff & God's resources & Leader of God's people

God's work done in and through Moses.
Opportunity: We finally realize we can't do anything for God on our own. We need God to do His work in and through us.
#1 Gave up His right to glory (Phil 2:5-7a)
#2 Took the form of a man, a creature (Phil 2:7b-8a)
#3 A righteous man voluntarily died the death of a cursed man. (Phil 2:8)

3 Big Steps Down

STEP #1

STEP #2

STEP #3

- 21 Steps Down into humility

Personal Reflections

- Do you fast? How can fasting aid us in humility?
- Have you joined Jesus in staying awake all night?
- Which humbling experience did God give to help you?