

Flourishing in the Kingdom – Humility

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 3.01

Introduction

- Synopsis of Part 3: Learning the basic laws & principles of how the spiritual realm functions will increase our effectiveness in Father's kingdom and other areas of life
- We must learn how to work within the system he created

Humility

- Key Greek words
 - “humble” (Gk, *tapeinoo*, v): to humble, cause to be low; sense: to be or become reduced in rank, character, or status
 - “humble” (Gk, *tapeinos*, adj): humble, undistinguished, lowly ; sense: marked by modesty and meekness (gentleness & patience)
 - “humble” (Gk, *tapeinophron*, adj): humble; sense: marked by modest thoughts about oneself
 - “humility” (Gk, *tapeinophrosyne*, n): humility, modesty; sense: the disposition of valuing or assessing oneself appropriately
 - “gentle, humble” (Gk, *praus*, adj): humble, gentle, meek
 - “humility” (Gk, *prautes*, n): humility, gentleness; sense: acting in a manner that is gentle, mild, and even-tempered
- Jesus' humility
 - Mt 11:29, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
 - “gentle” (Gk, *praus*, adj)
 - “humble” (Gk, *tapeinos*, adj)
 - Php 2:5-8, ⁵ “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!”
 - “equality” with God (Gk, *isos*, adj): having the same quality, quantity, value or measure as another
 - “something to be grasped” (Gk, *harpagmos*, n): something taken or held by force; especially something one believes to have a rightful claim to
 - Did the Son of God have a rightful claim to be & remain the Son of God?
 - “made himself nothing” (Gk, *kenoo*, v): to empty or divest oneself
 - “servant” (Gk, *doulos*, n): a slave, bond servant; sense: a person who is legally owned by someone else, whose entire livelihood and purpose was determined by their master; likely the lowest form of slavery
 - “humbled” (Gk, *tapeinoo*, v)
 - How does all this about Jesus relate to humility?

- Mt 9:6, et al: identified himself as Son of Man
- Mt 27:12-14,¹² “When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.¹³ Then Pilate asked him, ‘Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?’¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.”
 - Did he have the legal right as a human to defend himself?
- God’s humility
 - How do most people, including some Christians, view God’s nature?
 - Jn 14:9(c), “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”
 - In what ways might we attribute humility to God, based on what scripture says about him?
- Our humility
 - Php 2:3, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
 - “humility” (Gk, *tapeinophrosyne*, n): humility, modesty; sense: valuing or assessing oneself appropriately
 - According to this verse, what’s one of the results of humility?
 - Humility causes us to step off of our pedestal, to refuse to exalt or even focus on ourselves
 - Php 2:5, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”
 - 1 Pet 3:8, “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.”
 - “humble” (Gk, *tapeinophron*, adj)
 - Why is thinking of ourselves modestly essential to being sympathetic, compassionate?
 - Jas 3:13, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”
 - “humility” (Gk, *prautes*, n)
 - Explain why demonstrating your wisdom by being humble is not an oxymoron
- False humility
 - Examples
 - acting humble to draw attention to yourself
 - self-abasement
 - Col 2:18(a), 23, “Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize.... Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”
 - “humility” (*tapeinophrosyne*): humility, modesty
 - What is false humility and why would anyone practice it?
 - Jas 4:10, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”
 - “humble” (Gk, *tapeinoo*, v)
 - How would self-centeredness cause us to interpret this verse?
 - How would genuine humility cause us to interpret this verse?

- How to develop genuine humility
 - Gal 5:22-23(a), ²² “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.”
 - “gentleness” (Gk, *prautes*, n); one of the words translated “humility” (Tit 3:2; Jas 3:13)
 - Is this the fruit of God’s Spirit or our human spirit?
 - Col 3:12, “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”
 - also, 1 Pet 5:5, “... clothe yourselves with humility toward one another....”
 - “humility” (Gk, *tapeinophrosyne*, n), humility, modesty
 - Can we develop godly humility by our own efforts?
 - What must we do to “clothe” ourselves with humility?
 - We must choose to cooperate with Holy Spirit as he cultivates & redeems Jesus’ character traits in us
 - How effective can we be in God’s kingdom or how effectively can we participate in what he’s doing if our nature is very different than his?
- Questions
 - Our covenant with God is a loving, enduring relationship in which each partner focuses on the other’s well-being and success, including what they deserve, need or want.
 - How is humility relevant to our covenant relationship with God?
 - How is humility relevant to our relationship with other believers? With non-believers?
 - How is humility relevant to our activity in the kingdom?
 - How does humility apply to our interaction with evil spirits?
- My experience

Concluding Thoughts

- Humility is not one desirable attribute among many
 - I believe it’s the foundation of godly character, including agape
- I believe self-centeredness is the foundational characteristic of sinful human nature
- I believe humility is the antidote to self-centeredness & its opposite
- So as God develops humility in us, he is transforming us from the image of fallen humanity to the image of himself
- Whatever method he uses to help you develop humility, the result will certainly be worth it