

# Walk Humbly

(Sermon Notes) By: Warren Zehrung 8/5/2017

Let's begin in a day in the life of Jesus Christ. In today's sermon we will attempt to understand what Jesus meant about being **humble** – the theme runs throughout the Scriptures. I say "attempt to understand humility" – because, even among many of God's people – humility seems to be a concept that is difficult to grasp. We will let the Scriptures shape our understanding of what humility is.

Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge has to say.

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

We do not have to "Even the score" with anyone. God will take care of us – if we believe it.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that God will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

We come to the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9 And Jesus spoke this parable unto certain which **trusted in themselves** that they were righteous, and despised others:

Luke 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

One is a church leader – the other a humble tax collector.

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank you, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Luke 18:13 And the [humble] publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

We come to the Specific Purpose Statement of today's sermon:

Luke 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that **exalts** himself shall be **abased**; and he that **humbles** himself shall be **exalted**.

Let me read the last part of verse 14 in another translation: These are the words of Jesus: Every one that **exalts** himself shall be **humiliated**; and he that **humbles** himself shall be **exalted**.

Since Jesus is going to turn this present evil world upside down, it behooves us to understand what He meant about being "**Humble**." A humble person **realizes** his need to be taught by Christ. Let's answer the question: Who Will Be the Greatest in the Kingdom?

Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the **greatest in the kingdom** of heaven?

Matthew 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

And then, Jesus got specific:

Matthew 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall **humble** himself as this little child, the same is **greatest in the kingdom** of heaven.

Then what follows shows us how to live a life of humility: Jesus, who possesses a **humble** spirit, said:

Matthew 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receives me.

Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Being humble has to do with how we deal with others. Again, we find the common refrain that Jesus says so often:

Matthew 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased/humiliated; and he that shall **humble** himself shall be exalted.

Jesus teaches us to live humbly as a way of life. The Parable of the Wedding Feast.

Luke 14:7 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,

Luke 14:8 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him;

Luke 14:9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

Luke 14:10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

Luke 14:11 For whosoever exalts himself shall be abased; and he that **humbles** himself shall be exalted.

A **humble** person realizes his need to be taught by Christ.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and **before** honor, is **humility**.

Proverbs 22:4 By **humility** and the fear [moral reverence] of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life.

Let's take a little look and see who's going to the Place of Safety. Will it be the self-assured – or will it be those who are humble?

Zephaniah 2:3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness [**humility**]: it may be ye shall be hidden in the day of the LORD'S anger.

"**Wrought His judgment,**" means to **act justly**, doing what is right. That is: ...working for fairness and equality for all, particularly the weak and the powerless that are exploited by others... Coming to the aid and rescue of the underdog who has been taken unfair advantage of by seeking righteousness, and **humility**.

Who is going to **dwelt** with God who's abode is the high and holy place? Why do so many church leaders today feel that they alone must have the most prestigious assignment?

Isaiah 57:17 For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and **humble** spirit, to revive the spirit of the **humble**, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Hebrew *kesed*, *chesed*, or *hesed* means **loving kindness**. It means to display loving kindness and faithfulness toward each other, especially the poor, the weak and needy.

Isaiah 54:8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness [*'chesed'*] will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

God's *kesed* denotes persistent and unconditional tenderness, kindness, and mercy, a relationship in which God seeks after man with love and mercy. *Kesed* expresses both God's loyalty to His covenant and His love for His people along with a faithfulness to keep His promises. It is a **humble spirit** that God seeks after.

Psalms 138:6 Though the LORD be **high**, yet He has respect unto the **humble**: but the proud he knows afar off.

God knows who is proud. God seeks those who make every effort to become humble people.

Isaiah 66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, says the LORD: but to **this man** will I look, even to him that is **humble** and of a contrite spirit, and **trembles at my word**.

"Trembles at my word," means he who has great **respect** and **reverence** for Godly principles in his life.

I believe that I've mentioned it before, but: When I was working construction, I had a man who worked for me who quoted...

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

He said to me, "I don't want to be meek and inherit the earth – when I die, I want to go to heaven!"

Another translation says, Blessed are the **humble**: for they shall inherit the earth. It is those who are truly **humble** who will reign and rule with Jesus for a thousand years on earth.

One of the requirements for being a Christian is to be humble. Humility is the opposite of having an exalted viewpoint of one's own self-importance, knowing that you do not have all the answers to everything – and are in need of a lot.

We are to have a **humble mindset** – a right estimate of ourselves. **Humility** is not a popular character **trait in today's culture**.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then cometh shame: but with the **humble** is wisdom.

Too often the man in charge seems to want to be tough and never yielding. Even among the leaders of God's Church we find the leader, "always being right," – "always upholding the organization's interests over the humble member." I believe that a lack of **humbleness** in the present day ministry is the leading cause of the separation of God's people today.

They improperly seek power, prestige, and honor, with the result being many families are harmed because of a lack of **humbleness** on their part. Their lack of humbleness is

the main thing keeping God's people separated – **because** they believe that in order to get anything accomplished – they must show their **superior prowess** – they believe that they must rule with a strong hand – demonstrate their power, and exalt themselves as the one to be followed.

If there were one teaspoon of **humility** in the bunch, we could have combined Passover services and Feasts of Tabernacles convocations where all the brethren would be welcomed.

But the organizations are too worried about "protecting their turf," and maintaining their "membership numbers," to allow the brethren to have the good and pleasant experience of dwelling together in unity! (Psalm 133:1).

Please be careful, and be wary, of those leaders who speak of their corporate organization as "The Church," to the exclusion of the brethren everywhere. Those church leaders forget that God will hold all of us responsible for the choices we've made and the actions we've taken.

The Body of Christ has never been a corporate church organization. The Church is a **spiritual entity** of all those who are led by God's Spirit. A leader, especially a church leader should never treat anyone as inferior in any way.

**Humility** is correctly applying every Scriptural principle to our own lives – in order to achieve the intent of the Biblical instruction – and actually living by every word of God.

Humble people are to make Godly, mature decisions, and walk worthy of God. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to encourage them in their persecutions, and to counsel them with regard to some errors that they had fallen into. Paul said it this way:

1Thessalonians 2:11-12 You know how we exhorted and comforted and **urged** every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would **walk worthy of God**, who hath called you unto His Kingdom and glory.

Being **humble** is **not** being weak – as the world has been lead to believe. In the Bible the two words – humble and meek are often very similar. Meek is not weak. We read in:

Numbers 12:3 (Now the man Moses was **very meek**, very humble, more so than all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Can you imagine Moses, the **commander and chief** of Egypt's military – the most powerful army on earth with all his chariots and horsemen? (Exodus 14:18)

Can you imagine the power, – the treasures of Egypt, – can you imagine the **temptations** Moses endured...

And Moses was **humble** enough to **walk away** from that position – he resigned his commission... he turned his back on all that glory...

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Heb 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of the Messiah to be greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Moses was meek and **humble** – but I hope that you can see that **it was not easy!** Humility then, is having a proper evaluation of one's self – of one's capacity – especially compared to God. Meek is not weak. Being humble is not weakness. Being humble is **not** the same as being a damp dish-towel cowering in a corner.

A humble person must continue to make their own moral and ethical decisions and judgments – and **mature spiritually** as they should. Humility is trusting in God and not in self. It is having the proclivity to put the needs of others before our own needs. Humility is the opposite of being lifted up and exalted. We become humble when we eliminate every trace of **pretence** and jealousy from our lives.

God knows who and what we are. No one needs to pretend that they are more than they really are. **Humility** is having a modest view of ourselves. Humility is a virtue that allows one to work with those who are **not** humble.

Jesus set the pace for us with His **humble mindset**. Humility is getting along with all kinds of people without becoming offended. Speaking about how Jesus reacted to abuses hurled at Him: Jesus was being criticized and vilified.

1Peter 2:23 Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judges righteously:

That was as difficult for Jesus to do as it would be for us to **hold our tongue** in an unfair circumstance like that. Jesus surrendered Himself to the refuge of the Father, He yielded His protection to the Father who judges rightly. Brethren, we can do the same thing. God is keeping track – he will avenge us mightily. I will repay says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)

Here in Philippians we will take a look at the mindset of Jesus, the **state of mind** of Jesus, the **approach** that Jesus took:

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem other better than themselves.

**“Lowliness of mind,”** that is speaking of a **humble** mindset **toward others**. **Humility** is not something that occurs in isolation.

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the **things of others**.

**Humility** is exercised in dealing with others.

Philippians 2:5 Let this **mind** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Let this **mind** = a **humble** spirit. “Let this **mind** be in you,” that is not a suggestion – that is a requirement and an obligation!

Philippians 2:6 [Jesus Christ] Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: [Jesus is God]

Notice how willingly Jesus **humbled** Himself:

Philippians 2:7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Jesus did not play His “God card” for advantage as He endured the trials of life like everybody else.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

And, what was the **outcome** of Jesus living and dying a **humble** existence?

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God has also **highly exalted** Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

As we saw in Luke 18: The **humble** shall always be **highly exalted**.

We saw that **Humbleness** was not a sentiment of or a feeling – but an obligation and Christian **requirement**.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, **humbleness** of mind, meekness [**gentle humility**], longsuffering;

We will see here that humbleness has to do with dealing with one another.

*tapeinophrosune*:

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Ephesians 4:2 With all **lowliness** [**humbleness of mind**] and **meekness** [humility], with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We see here in Galatians that a Christian **does** get involved in sticky situations – he is **obliged to do so** as his brother's keeper – but he must always do it in humility.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of **meekness** [humility]; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Titus 3:2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all **meekness** [humility] unto all men.

Brethren, we too, need to understand the urgent importance of developing a **mindset of humility** in our Christian life.

Speaking of the Messiah in symbols, Isaiah spoke of how Jesus would rearrange the ways of this present evil world; because God must be exalted and man must be humbled.

Isaiah 2:11 The lofty looks of man shall be **humbled**, and the haughtiness of men shall be **bowed** down, and the LORD alone shall be **exalted** in that day.

Isaiah 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be **brought low**:

Isaiah 2:17 And the loftiness of man shall be **bowed down**, and the haughtiness of men shall be **made low**: and the LORD alone shall be **exalted** in that day.

John the Baptist took from these words in introducing the Messiah. He reiterated these words of Isaiah about Jesus Christ.

Luke 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be **brought low** [humbled or humiliated]; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth.

James said it in plain English:

James 4:10 **Humble** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

God almighty possesses perfect humility. To become like God it is necessary that we humble ourselves in all that we ever do – and in that way we are walking in His steps. Micah is telling us that God is concerned with our having a right and proper relationship with Him.

When we walk humbly with God, our life will demonstrate the characteristics that are evident in God Himself – even God’s **humbleness**. Men desire to be bold and forceful. We must ask ourselves this revealing question,

“Do we walk **boldly** with our Lord, or **humbly** with our Lord?

When Micah adds, “walk humbly with your God,” he is saying to be in a right relationship with God. By the way: The title of today’s sermon is taken from this verse:

Micah 6:8 He has shown thee, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord **require** of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to **walk humbly with thy God**.

Notice, humility is one of God’s requirements. The beloved apostle John restated it this way:

1John 2:6 He that says that he abides in Jesus ought himself also so to **walk, even as He walked**.

Humility is a key to the process by which God brings us to salvation. Humility is giving God all the credit – for everything. Paul fully trusted that it was God who gave the growth in real Christians – he did not take the credit, knowing his abilities came from God. Paul had confidence in God through Christ because he had a humble mindset. Paul confided of himself:

Acts 20:19 Serving the Lord with all **humility of mind**, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me.

Christians have it rough. Paul realized that everything he accomplished came by the hand of God, and not as a result of anything special that he contributed. Here we find another definition of **humility**:

2Corinthians 3:4 Such trust have we through Christ to toward God:

Trusting in God provides the assurance that God is with us at all times, even when our troubles seem overwhelming.

2Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.

**That’s humility!** We have nothing to be proud of – our sufficiency is of God. Even Jesus took **no credit** for the things He accomplished.

John 14:10 ...but the Father that dwells in me, he does the works.

Humility is trusting God in all things. Trusting in God provides the assurance that God is with us at all times, even when our troubles seem overwhelming. It enables us to work through trials and not be overcome by them.

We saw in Isaiah how the **high** will be made **low**, and vice versa. Peter explains how those who are **high** will be made **low**, and the low will be made high. It is when we are able to learn **God’s humble way** of dealing with our fellow man. Peter is saying, “Don’t try to be the “Top Dog” in everything – always seeking to out-do everybody else.”

1Peter 5:5-6 ...All of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with **humility**: for God resists the **proud**, and gives grace to the **humble**. **Humble** yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may **exalt** you in due time:

End: Walk Humbly