

The Value of Humility

Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

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What We Will Learn

- Christ's teaching on humility
 - Humility greatest in the Kingdom of heaven
 - The humble will be exalted
 - Humility from Sermon on the Mount
- Characteristics of humility
- Importance of humility
- Matthew 18:1–4 and 5:3–5
- Luke 14:7–11

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

- To respond to disciples' question
 - King on earth is the greatest in his kingdom
 - Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven
- Jesus presented a little child
- Whoever humbles himself like the little child
- Is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven
- Matthew 18:1–4

Matthew 18 (NIV)

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,

3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18 (NIV)

4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

The Humble will be Exalted

- Christ was guest for a meal
- In the home of a prominent Pharisee
- Advised other guests
- If you exalt yourself you will be humbled
- If you humble yourself you will be exalted
- Luke 14:1 and 7–11

Luke 14 (NIV)

1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable:

Luke 14 (NIV)

8 “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.

9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

Luke 14 (NIV)

10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests.

11 For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Earlier Teaching on Humility

Matthew 5:5 (NIV)

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

- 3rd Beatitude
- Humble yourself
 - Toward God
 - Toward other people
- 1 Peter 5:5–7

1 Peter 5 (NIV)

5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

1 Peter 5 (NIV)

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Humility toward God

- Human effort alone inadequate
- To accomplish objectives
- As God's provider assistant
- Submit to God
- While doing what you can
- To prepare to accept his direction
- God can
- Human with God can, otherwise cannot

Humility toward Others

- Provider-receiver relationship among people
- See yourself as potential receiver
- Beneficiary of what others provide
- To motivate other people's goodness
- Present yourself with promise of goodness
- Be motivated to be a provider

Promise of Goodness

- Appreciates other people
- Willing and prepared to make sacrifice for other people's interest
- Over all behavior
- Polite, attentive, trustworthy
- Responsive, peaceful
- Conveys a promise of good heart

Promise of Goodness

- Different manifestation for different situations
- Promise of appreciation
- Promise of obedience

Promise of Appreciation

- Requesting goods or services from another
- Convey promise to appreciate receiving
- Willing and ready to provide when needed

Promise of Obedience

- Interaction with authority
- Proposing a choice to authority
- Convey promise to obey
- Even if proposed choice is not accepted

Paul Teaches Humility

- Consider others above (higher esteem)
- Give up selfish ambition
- Consider other's interest in addition to yours
- Have the same mindset as Christ
- Philippians 2:3–8

Philippians 2 (NIV)

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2 (NIV)

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something
to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking
the very nature of a servant, being made in
human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to
death— even death on a cross!

Childlike Humility

- Innocent, frank, trusting
- Sees people above herself or himself
- Sees people as potential providers
- Appreciating heart
- Obedient heart
- Embodiment of humility as Christ presented
- Greatest person in the Kingdom of heaven

Why Humility is Important

- God created and expects us to be humble
- Humility conveys Godliness and fear of the Lord
- Motivates a person to accept and perform provider assistant responsibilities
- Helps sustain mutual provider-receiver relationship among people
 - Potential provider
 - Potential receiver

What We Learned

- Christ taught humility
- Sermon on the Mount (3rd Beatitude)
- Parable at Pharisee's dinner
- Childlike humility is greatest in the kingdom of heaven
- Humility helps sustain mutual provider-receiver relationship among people

What We Learned cont'd

- Humility helps sustain mutual provider-receiver relationship among people
- Seeing yourself as potential receiver motivates you to be a provider
- Seeing yourself only as provider
 - Someone that hands things to others
 - May lead to grumpiness and disaffection