

Humility Part 3

“7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” (Luke 17:7-10 KJV)

The Lord narrated the above story that speaks about humility to His apostles who were coming to Him, asking Him to increase their faith, *“5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5 KJV)* To increase faith, many people would understand it that there will be more miracles in their lives. That to some extent is correct, but that is not the whole truth. The Lord will increase the faith of His disciples either in this way, by making more miracles, or by another way. At first instance in answer to His apostles’ request, the Lord told them, *“6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.” (Luke 17:6 KJV)* Here faith is associated with more miracles in the life of the disciples of Jesus.

The Lord also instructed them how their faith will be increasing by their willingness to accept suffering, hard work and humiliation for the sake of Christ as He narrated to them the story that speaks about the life of that particular servant. *Many who will come to Christ would expect miracles and wonders to happen in their lives and that is true and correct. But in addition to that and it will accompanying it, there will be suffering and pain and that should be expected.* Many will expect and put in their minds that coming to Christ means privileges, authority, financial gains, leisure and more and better facilities. The story of the servant that Jesus had put in front of His apostles had made things more clear to them and it will make it clearer to you this very day.

1. Expect to get involved in hard work of different kinds, “7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle” (Luke 17:7 KJV): The servant who was working in the field, farming. and caring for the animals, was having hard work, and two faculties was involved in his work. He was called to manage two things together, farming and caring for animals. Expect the same in your life and service to God. *Your workplace may ask you to do different tasks with the same amount of payment; still you need to bear as an act of obedience expressing your sound faith and humility toward God.*

2. Expect to get involved in long hours work, “will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field” (Luke 17:7 KJV): This servant will start his day early morning, and when that servant was going home exhausted at sunset, there at home he would not rest, but needs to continue to work and prepare the food for his master, then stand and wait for his master to finish. *Therefore be patient and persevering in doing all your assignments. Humble people do not complain or grumble while finishing the work assigned to them.*

3. Don’t grumble but be thankful that you have work to work, strength to work, food to eat and place to lodge and sleep, “and afterward thou shalt eat and drink” (Luke 17:8 KJV): What we had read in the parable of Jesus, that servant had a work to work, a home to come back to, and food and drink to eat and get satisfied. ** Be thankful to all what you had been given, even in small things. Be thankful for the strength that God is giving to you to do all what is required of you. * In addition to that, when you work your conscience will be clear with man and with God because you know that you had done your part well. * Humble people are thankful people, and are thankful to God to the small things they are receiving from Him.*

4. Don’t put in your mind that the people would think about your hard work and offer you rest and food to eat, “will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?” (Luke 17:7 KJV): The servant when he came back home, he did not put in his mind that his master would think how much he had worked hard and that he need rest and would offered him food and refreshment. Many who serve God would expect that the people whom they are serving will feel their pain and appreciate their hard work. That should be true, but in reality, men are selfish, and incline to abuse and take advantage of those servants of Christ. ** If you are determined to follow Christ and serve Him, then the aforementioned details are good policy and strategy to adopt. It is better that you will not expect, so when you will not find people to treat you well or think of you, then you will not be daunted, frustrated and discouraged. * Humble people are not expectant of appreciation and reward and good treatment from people.*

5. Don’t put in your mind appreciation, invitation, gratefulness and gratitude toward your good service and deeds, “9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not” (Luke 17:9 KJV): ** If you are still waiting for appreciation, invitations, reward, and gratitude from the people, think again, this will not happen, and such expectations will lead you to frustration and discouragement. * Humble down, and consider, in all what you do, do it for the Lord and not for man, and He will be the one to reward you, “23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24 KJV)*

6. Review all what you need to do and be sure to do them all, “10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you,” (Luke 17:10 KJV): No one else will do for you your assignments. *Me and you are serving Christ, and from Him come salvation, deliverance, eternal life, promises and rewards. Therefore we are accountable to Him and our eyes shall be on Him and on His commands to do them. Pride will make you look to get something from the people. But humility will make you see clearly that you are serving Christ and you do all what you are called to do in order to please Him. Prepare your mind and go on to do your assignments well.*

7. Check yourself now and see what are the things that you did not do, so speedily accomplish them, “10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you” (Luke 17:10 KJV): *Don’t waste your time with arguments and self pity, that will not help you, but rather be wise and use the opportunity to perfect your services toward Christ and His calling into your life. Continue to be diligent in serving Christ by serving Him and His people. Set an example to others in hard work, humility, and submission to God’s will.*

8. *Let this statement be the motto of your life, “when you shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do” (Luke 17:10 KJV):* Crown your humility with that statement, not only you say it but need to live it.

The standard that the Word of God teaches us about humility and to adopt it makes our journey to Heaven easier and with less pain, less baggage of anger, grumbling, trusting men, unforgiveness, self pity, etc. Paul wrote the following to the Corinthians: ***“12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.” (2 Corinthians 1:12 KJV)***

Paul was the one who planted the Corinthians church and stayed with them for 18 months and later on he needed to leave them. After he left, things went in a way that Paul was not happy much with their achievements; they were proud, boastful and they were showing these wrong attitudes toward Paul who was the one who introduced Christ to them.

Paul, sure was hurt with their wrong attitude and behavior, as well as he needed to deal with them and handle their arrogance. He sent to them letters and teachings to correct them and admonish them.

With such situation that Paul faced we may be facing the same with people whom we labor and invest our lives to introduce Christ to them, but we found them ungrateful. Therefore, we will learn now lessons from how Paul faced that situation from his writing to them:

A. Rejoicing, “For our rejoicing is this,”: when we face such situation we need to take the attitude of rejoicing, ***“22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. 23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.” (Luke 6:22-23 KJV)*** Humble people rejoice when they are ill treated and persecuted. Be strong in the Lord and keep smile in your face even you are persecuted and ill treated. Such will encourage other followers of Christ to continue to be humble and accept the hardships they face as they follow Christ.

B. Keeping good testimony: “the testimony of” our lives we should keep: In whatever circumstances that we are facing from threats or harms, scoffing or mocking we need to keep our testimony by keep doing good and fulfill all what the Lord had asked us to do. Humble people are willing to surrender easily their will to God and persevere during hardships and trials to keep their testimony intact, to fulfill Scriptures, and to continue in God’s will so that others when they see they get encouraged and continue in faith in God.

C. Keeping clear conscious, “our conscience”, we need to keep clear: * Humble people are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and willing and easy for them to be corrected for their wrong doing. * We need to endeavor to keep clear conscious with God and with man. We need to keep allow the Holy Spirit to examine us, to speak to us and to correct us. * If we found ourselves had done wrong we need to repent and correct ourselves, in order to clear our conscious and to keep the fellowship of peace with the Holy Spirit and the people around us.

D. Living in simplicity, “that in simplicity”, we need to live: Arrogance and boasting will bring people more down, for we know that God oppose the proud. **We need to humble down and accept suffering and accept to be ill-treated and humiliated and willing to live a simple life away from boasting, over spending and debauchery.**

E. Live in Godliness, to be a “Godly” person: Humble people are willing to move away from the ways of the world in order to live and move in the ways of God. **We need to humble down, giving up the worldly practices in order to live and do things in the way God ordained for them to be done.**

F. To be honest and sincere, to act with “sincerity”: Humble people are honest, and they have the courage from God to declare the truth without fear; they are genuine and sincere and keep themselves in God’s ways. **Let us take life and the business of God seriously. Let us be very sincere with the things of God. Let us do them diligently and precisely, trusting God that He will be the one to reward us.**

G. Avoiding all the works of the flesh, “not with fleshly” deeds we achieve things: Humble people they keep abiding with God trusting Him that He will act on their behalf to manage things. **We need to rely on the works of the Holy Spirit and not on our flesh. When we are attacked we should not retaliate or revenge. We need to keep room for God to act in our behalf.**

H. Relying on God’s “wisdom”: In such circumstance we need really to trust and to rely on God to lead us and to teach us of what we need to do. Envy, jealousy, revenge, fights, strife, cheating, manipulation are all the works of the flesh and humble people avoid all such and rely on the wisdom of God that comes from Heaven, ***“17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” (James 3:17-18 KJV)***

I. Relying on the grace of God, “but by the grace of God” we go forward: Humble people does not rely on their own strength and with their resource manage their lives and the challenges ahead of them. **Therefore whatever resources and privileges we have, we still need to rely on the grace of God to help us and to provide for us to pass through the current painful trials in our life and ministries.**

J. “we have had our conversation in the world”, and so we will reap the fruit: As we adopt the above principles then God will open to us new ways to serve Him and we will reap the fruit, and found that the message will be growing reaching new areas and new people.

K. We even can give the precise message to those who were ungrateful to us, “and more abundantly to you-ward” as Paul dealt with the Corinthians: Even we can tell them, ‘Our conscience testifies that we have well conducted ourselves in the ministry, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and Godly sincerity; we have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.’

My dear and beloved: I pray that this Word of God had helped you and increase your faith. The standard that the Word of God teaches us about humility and to adopt it makes our journey to Heaven easier and with less pain, with less baggage of anger, grumbling, trusting men, unforgiveness, self pity, etc. As well as makes our ministry more fruitful, and effective in dealing with different trials in the ministry.

Come back now to your sense, and understand this way of life and service. Ask God forgiveness for your sins, and if you are running in another standard, then you need to correct yourself and once again commit your life to continue to serve Him as we described in this message. Let us pray ...

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word that taught me about humility and made things clear to me and gave me comfort and relieve, even as I am facing hard work, difficult tasks and opposition and conflict. Lord thank you for my work and for all what you provided for me from food, shelter and the rest of the facilities that making my life easier. Lord thank you for all the trials and the hardships that you allowed in my life in order to humble me and increase my faith and trust in you and in order to work hard to serve you. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that we received in this message.

Let us repent and renounce all our sins. Repent and renounce your pride and your lack of humility. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and full trust in God. Confess and renounce your demanding attitudes, your expectation of appreciation of good things you want to receive from the people. Confess and renounce discouragement, grumbling, anger, retaliation, unforgiveness, and laziness. Confess and renounce your non willingness to persevere to work hard and suffer for Christ. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will of God. Confess and renounce your lack of reading the Bible and your lack of prayers. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I ask you to give me relief in facing this opposition and conflict _____ from this people _____. Lord uphold me with your grace and wisdom to sustain me during this time of trial. I trust you and magnify your name that you will be leading me in victory out of it. Lord, today I commit my life to live for you and serve you as your Word in this message taught me. Lord, please always remind me, help me, and sustain me to overcome, and provide my needs to continue to serve you. Lord I thank you and praise you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and who committed their lives to you to serve you. Lord help them to grow and enable them to express more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, self-control, faith, humility, patience, and long suffering, so people can see Jesus clearly in their lives and got attracted to you by their good testimony.

Lord bless us as your church and increase our faith in you and give us perseverance to continue to do your work and the task entrusted to us. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus and to make new disciples, and train

new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to be ready to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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