

Humility (I): Characters of the Lamb

I. Matthew 18:1-4, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

- ♦ Jesus said, ***“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”***
- ♦ This passage tells us that all people in the kingdom of heaven have this characteristic of being humble as little children, and that the greatest glory in heaven is humility.

1. What are the characteristics of children

A. The younger the child, the more insecure he will be when he doesn't see his parents, the more he will cry.

- ♦ **God wants us to turn back to being like little children, that is, we can't stand the loss of His presence.** He wants us to be like little children, hungry and thirsty for Him at all times and needing to rely on Him at all times.
- ♦ The more we pursue the Lord, the more humble we will be, leaning on Him and looking to Him in all things. Don't dare to be arrogant and conceited in one thing.

For example: (1) Pearl Young was very careful even when crossing the road, leaning closely on God; (2) Pearl Young did not dare to just watch TV with others

- ♦ Many Christians today are like adults before God, thinking they know a lot, often relying on their own wisdom and intelligence to solve many things, saying, “I'll do it myself, I know it all.” God says, these types of people cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

B. They are easy to believe, listen and take actions

- ♦ Adults have complex minds and are often full of earthly thoughts and opinions, and do not have a heart that simply believes. For example, for praise, do you still think that it doesn't make sense, and you wonder why you need to open your mouth, why do you need to raise your voice, I can just believe in my heart, and you have your own opinions and views, and you are not willing to simply obey God's word?
- ♦ If you listen to the Word and don't do it, you will have a phenomenon that the pressure inside you will get bigger and bigger, and if you feel this way, you have to repent. The more you obey God's word and do it, the more you will have clarity inside, the more you will be joyful and lively inside, and you will be confident/fearless before God.

C. Listen to commands, not give them

- ◆ We need to turn back to being like children, often with a listening ear, to listen to commands, to do as we are told, not just to love to express.

D. Children are malleable

- ◆ Older people are the least malleable, often unable to sleep after changing beds, and accustomed to eating a fixed diet. Plasticity means that you can accept anything. Always be careful not to stereotype yourself, to be this way or that way, but to **be open to change and to new things**. This way it will not be difficult for God to send you on a missionary trip.
- ◆ The more one pursues God, the less one has a self, and the more easily one is changed.

2. **Matthew 20:20-28, But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.**

- ◆ This Jesus, the Son of God, came to humble Himself and to lay down His life to serve others. **Since humility is the distinguishing trait of Jesus who came down from Heaven, it is the standard of heavenly glory.** To know how much humility is in a person, we need to see how much they are willing to lower themselves to serve others. Jesus told them that the most humble man is the one who is closest to God. If your son is to sit at my (Jesus') right and left, they are to be the most humble (lowliest) man, to serve, to be servants, to lay down their lives.

II. **Revelation 17:14, The Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings**

- ◆ Countries on earth care about the ability to be bold and powerful, their emblems are mostly tigers, lions, eagles, what is the symbol of the heavenly country?
- ◆ In John 1:29, John the Baptist introduced Jesus by saying, **"Behold! The Lamb of God."** In the world you get the kingdom by your courage and power, but in heaven the more you are like a lamb, the more you will get the kingdom.
- ◆ The whole world is developing nuclear weapons and showing off the power of their nations, but the book of Revelation tells us that the Lamb will win in the end, and the Lamb will conquer them, because the Lamb is the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- ◆ The lamb not only has no ability to attack, but also no ability to defend. It doesn't even have the ability to protect itself. Isaiah 53 speaks of our Lord Jesus as a sheep led to the slaughter, and He was silent in the same way, and this is His symbol, His image. Do we envy being a lion king/ leopard on earth?
- ◆ What are we after?
- ◆ The book of Revelation tells us that the group of those who are with the Lamb are called and chosen to be faithful and will overcome. **So the final victory of the whole world is**

the Lamb and those who follow the Lamb, the group of overcomers, that is, those who overcome in humility.

- ◆ The Roman Empire, so high and glorious, and these followers of the Lamb, who were all killed, thrown into the Colosseum, tied to the cross, poured with oil, and burned with fire, did not resist, but in the end the whole Roman Empire was turned over by these people, and the Roman Empire became a Christian nation. How wonderful is that!

III. The Contrast between Jesus and Satan

1. Isaiah 14:12-15, Satan wanted to ascend to heaven and be equal with the Most High

- ◆ This passage speaks of the king of Babylon on one hand, and of Satan on the other hand, foreshadowing Satan, who was originally a bright star, the son of the morning, who was originally very beautiful, but he was not satisfied, and said, ***“I will ascend to heaven, and will exalt my throne above the stars, and be equal with the Most High.”*** He originally had a very good position, but he was not satisfied with his present state, and his end result was *“to fall into the underworld, to the depths of the pit.”*

2. Philippians 2:5-12, Jesus made himself of no reputation and took the form of a slave

- ◆ What a contrast between this passage and the above passage. Our Lord Jesus was in the image of God, yet He humbled Himself, and took on the image of a servant! He came to earth not with the image of a beautiful man, but as the image of a servant. In Isaiah it says, ***“he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.”*** What a great contrast between Jesus and Satan!
- ◆ Our God, who stooped lower, and still lower, to a complete death, on the most humiliating and cruel cross, crucified with robbers, as a result, God raised Him to the highest, and gave Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.
- ◆ Today Satan has been blowing the poisonous air of “I want to be high, I want to be higher, I want to climb up” in mankind, in Adam and Eve, and in the offspring of Adam and Eve. **You need to know whenever you want to be higher, Satan's poisonous air will be inside you, and God will say “you must be brought down to Sheol.”**
- ◆ Jesus came to put His humility into man. God created man in His image and today He is bringing man back to the humility of His original creation. **The same way Satan is blowing the poison of pride in man, Jesus keeps putting His humility in us, it depends on your choice each day.** Do you choose to listen to Satan or do you choose to listen to Jesus? Do you choose to let Satan provoke your envy through this circumstance, “I want to be high; I want to be superior”, or do I choose the humility of Jesus' heart, obedience, and actively choosing to

humble myself to the point of death on the cross.

IV. 1 Peter 5:5-6, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble

- ◆ The whole nature of Satan, who resists God, is pride. Therefore, God always opposes the proud in order to redeem us, so that we can be humbled and so that He can give us grace. Whenever we want to be proud, God keeps stopping us because He loves us and He doesn't want us to fall into Satan's snare.
- ◆ Verse 6: ***"Humble yourselves, therefore, and submit yourselves to the power of God, and in time He will raise you up."*** Notice that you are not humbling yourself in order to be exalted, or you will still be filled with prideful motives.
- ◆ Lowering yourself is not the same as natural low self-esteem. **The natural low self-esteem is one that is related to our flesh.** I feel that my education is lower than others, my IQ is lower than others, and my status is inferior to others, but in fact, it is a hidden pride that often compares with others, and this sort of low self esteem results in speech, actions, and attitudes that are harmful to ourselves and others. Ask God to give us true humility, because we don't want low self-esteem.
- ◆ True humility is to know God and to know myself, to know my position, that I am a created being, that I am originally nothing, that all I have is from God, and what am I not receiving? If I am receiving it, what can I boast of? No matter if we are comparing intelligence or our family circumstances or our education, it is all something we receive, it is all His grace. If we know ourselves, we can always keep ourselves humble.
- ◆ A humble person is satisfied with what he or she has now. Humility means that I am satisfied with my status, my height, my weight, my gender, my face, my family, my education...etc. I am satisfied with the wonderful and fearful way God made me, so the humble person always thanks the Lord!
- ◆ If you are dissatisfied with yourself and dislike everything about yourself, you need to take the time to confess your sins before the Lord, "You made me wonderful and fearful, but I am so proud and dissatisfied with your creation," and repent before the Lord, and He will save us and help us get rid of this.

Humility (I) Assignment

1. When you want to be child-like, what are some of the characteristics of a child?
2. Pearl Young was pursuing God for many years, why did she not want to just casually watch TV with others? Does this give you any reminder?
3. In what area are you less likely to have simple faith? Why?
4. Think about it, where are you very malleable and where are you less malleable? Why?
5. The symbol of Jesus is the "Lamb." If you were to describe yourself, what would you use?
6. What did the Son of God come for?
7. What are the characteristics of Satan?
8. What is the difference between self-esteem and humility? In what area do you have self-esteem?
9. Are you satisfied with yourself (looks, height, weight...) or your environment?
10. Has the Lord spoken to you through this tape? Write down your prayers.
11. Scripture memorization: Matthew 20:26-28, Philippians 2:5-12.