

Humility (V): No Jealousy or Competition

I. The Humble Are Neither Competitive Nor Jealous

1. Moses, Numbers 11:28-29

- ◆ Joshua asked Moses to forbid others to prophesize, and Moses said to him, are you jealous of people for my sake? Some leaders are easily provoked to jealousy by the words of someone close to them or an assistant. But not Moses, who did not forbid others to speak because someone protected his authority.
- ◆ Moses led the people of Israel in the wilderness, and there was one action that kept coming up, that is, Moses often bowed down, even when his brothers and sisters were jealous, unhappy with him, speaking against him or slandering him. Moses did not argue for himself, he just bowed down. So God often came out to speak on his behalf. **This is how a humble man is, and God often comes forth to testify on his behalf.**
- ◆ From this passage we can see that whether we are serving in a community, teaching Sunday school, writing or editing, leading worship, or standing on the pulpit, we should always have a heart that is looking for a successor, that is, someone to rise up and do a better job than I can and be used by God, rather than being afraid that someone else will take my place, that someone else will be more gifted or do a better job.

2. Saul, 1 Samuel 18:5-10

- ◆ Because of the words of these women, who praised David more than Saul, Saul did not like them, and they made him so angry with David, not because of anything he had done.
- ◆ Brothers and sisters, we need to be aware of the prideful spirit that Satan is blowing in our old Adam, **a prideful spirit that is easily revealed by the words of others.** It was not because of David's defeat, but because of the praise of others that Saul began to be angry with David, which ended in verse 9: *"And Saul eyed David from that day on. The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand."*
- ◆ When the spirit of pride and jealousy in us starts to stir, it is like welcoming in the proud king Satan. Brothers and sisters, when we hear others being praised and we are not comfortable inside, we are in danger of opening a breach and welcoming in the proud and jealous spirit in. For example, if your boss praises your colleague, your pastor praises a brother, or a sister, how do you react?
- ◆ From then on, Saul was chased by the spirit of jealousy and rivalry. Sometimes, when he was illuminated by David's humble words, he came to his senses and felt

that he was sorry to David. But soon after he was blinded by jealousy again. Saul died pathetically and lost his position in heaven. How sad.

- ◆ May the story of Saul be deeply engraved in us. Don't think that jealousy is a trivial matter. It can cause the devil to fall on you greatly!
- ◆ Brothers and sisters, if we want our spiritual life to be strong, you must deal well with jealous, contentious spirits.

3. Jonathan

- ◆ In fact, David was a threat to Jonathan's throne. He could have inherited the throne, but he admired David and he knew that David would one day be king.
- ◆ **When others are praised, if you keep counting their defects, that is the spirit of pride working in you. When the Lord shows us this, rebuke the poisonous spirit of pride in the name of the Lord, so that you can rejoice with those who are happy.**
- ◆ **When someone is praised, the truly humble person can add a few words of praise, even though the humble person knows this person being praised has many flaws. But when you try to do this positively, it will help you become more and more humble, being able to appreciate good characters in others, and having the spirit of Jonathan.**
- ◆ For a truly humble person, when the pastor starts to praise another for something the humble person has done many times without the pastor's knowledge, the truly humble person is able to thank the Lord that we have someone else doing the same. We are one body and we always want each part to be stronger and stronger. The right leg does not want the left leg to have polio, and you always want the left leg to be just as strong and run together.

4. Do not cultivate a competitive spirit in children

- ◆ Sometimes our parents seek to be humble, but we keep asking our children to win over others, always cultivating a spirit of competition. You can teach your children to study for God. God wants us to do our parts as sons of men on earth, and God does not like lazy people but likes diligent people! Come and glorify your children, so that your children may glorify you! In this way, there will be no spirit of competitiveness in the child in studying, sports, activities, and contests, and such a child will be healthy in mind, body, and spirit.
- ◆ We are children of God today, and we worship a God who is so gentle and humble. The Lamb who dwells in us does not compete, does not make a noise, and His voice is not heard in the streets! We pray to God, "God, you will change me, just like You!
- ◆ The spirit of competitiveness is not only in society, but also in church. Why did many churches go through schism? It is because of the lack of humility, which is the most important character of God's people, however rarely preached in church.

Unfortunately, God's children do not know how to pursue humility, but only seek to be used, valued, and praised more often.

II. Philippians 2:3 *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."*

- ♦ Do not covet selfish ambition or conceit. The glory is from God, and God Himself glorifies us only when we are lowly. **Because the glory of the Lamb is in the one who humbles himself, who is like Him.**
- ♦ *"Count others more significant than yourselves."* But some people say, "I am better than him, so how can I see him as better than me?" People who say this do not know themselves. We do not know that I am a sinner by grace, so that we compare ourselves with something outside and think that I am better than others. If we always bow down inside and worship the Lord who made us, if we always stand in our position as created beings, and if our life, breath, and talents are all from Him, and none of them are mine, then we can bow down and see others as better than ourselves.

III. Luke 18:9-14, Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted

- ♦ Verse 9: *"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt."* The Pharisee fasted twice a week, was very godly, gave a tenth of everything he received, and did none of those bad things. But in this passage, God finally says, *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."* **Here we are told that as long as we have the thought of despising others in us, no matter how many spiritual things we do, it is useless.**
- ♦ All the spiritual things we do, fasting, afflicting our souls, engaging in many church activities, we also serve, visit people, cook for others, give money to others, etc. No matter how many spiritual things we do, they will be destroyed and not remembered because we despise others.
- ♦ **Besides, no matter how bad I was, I humbled myself and said, "Lord! If we truly humble ourselves in this way, and repent with an open heart, God will justify us, and we will be exalted in His sight."** But remember, you should not do these things for the sake of exaltation, otherwise it will not be a heart-rending repentance.

IV. Conclusion

- ♦ In his book *Humility*, Andrew Murray says that the humble man is not jealous or

grudging, and is able to praise God when others are blessed and raised up in front of him. He is able to tolerate others being praised and himself being forgotten, because he has learned before God to be like Paul, I am nothing. If we often despise our own words and thoughts, we do not care if our advice is not taken. I am only a sinner who has received the grace of God, and I do not need to compare my grace with the others' grace, but to give great thanks and praise to the Lord for the grace I have received.

- ♦ **Be aware of when I am comparing myself with others, and when the spirit of pride and contention is stirring in me.** You must immediately rebuke this competitive spirit to come out of you, and then bless the other person, "Lord, bless him more and glorify him more." If we pray for this often, the Lord Jesus will form in us the spirit of humility.
- ♦ When others are praised, do we have anxiety in our heart? Pay attention to this, rise up and fight for it until there is a vast expanse in us, and a new heaven and a new earth in us, and **when we can rejoice in the praise of others, and give thanks and praise to the Lord, then the humility of the Lord begins to work in us.**

Humility (V) Assignment

1. In Numbers 11:28-29, what was the difference in the reaction of Moses and Joshua when Eldad and Midas prophesied in the camp?
2. When did Saul become angry with David? When did the devil begin to possess Saul?
3. When God's servant, Michael McKinney, left the church, his good friend Bernard came to lead the church and there was a revival. How would you react if someone led Sunday school, a small home, or any service for you while you were gone and when you came back, they said they did a better job than you?
4. When a pastor or company owner praises a person, do you count the shortcomings of that person and think that the pastor or company owner just doesn't know the shortcomings of that person?
5. Does your child have a competitive spirit? Does he do things for God and study for God? Or is it for the sake of competition? Or is it for you?
6. Practice complimenting people. When someone is complimented, even if you know their flaws, try to open your mouth and add a few more compliments.
7. Scripture memorization: Philippians 2:3, Luke 18:14, second half.