

Humility (XI): Humility Brings Salvation

I. God Brings Salvation to Us Through Humility

1. Isaiah 53:6-8, 53:11-12

- ♦ It says here that we are like foolish sheep, each one going his own way, and we have gone astray. God gives salvation. What kind of salvation? He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as a lamb to be led to the slaughter. Jesus humbled Himself to become a criminal, to be slain, so that He could save us the sinners, and through His humility He brought salvation to us.

2. Philippians 2:5-8

- ♦ It says here that the Lord Jesus Christ *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.”* In the original text, “To grasp” means “a thing to be held on to for advantage,” which means He was originally equal with God, but He would not keep holding on to the position of being equal with God, but emptied Himself. **“Emptied himself” means “ma[d]e himself of no reputation.” He does not have any reputation to speak of, and no honor to speak of.** He took the form of a slave and became like a man, without any reputation. And being in the form of a man, he humbled himself, and this “humbling of himself” was active and obedient to the point of death, and death on a cross.
- ♦ In Isaiah 53, it says that He was oppressed and did not open His mouth when He was suffering. The footnote says that He was oppressed but humbled Himself and did not open His mouth, and that is how He humbled Himself and obeyed. It was through His complete humility that Jesus brought salvation to us, and so He wants us to bring salvation to others through our humility.

Some when I ask someone to share a testimony, but he says he doesn't want to because he is afraid of being called proud. **Oftentimes when we tend to judge others for a certain problem, it is usually because we have the exact same problem. If we call someone proud, it is usually reflecting our inner state. If we think others tend to show off, it is usually because I have the same tendency.**

3. Actual examples

- (1) One day a sister was handing out gospel tracts to a man. The man took it and spat on the paper, then rubbed it and threw it on the ground. The sister picked it up, wiped the spittle on her beautiful gown, and said, "I'm sorry! I didn't know this paper would make you angry, I'll give you another one!" The man was so shocked that he came to faith in Christ. **The true humility of Christians can be shocking to nonbelievers. Humility can bring salvation, and through humility, death is at work in us but life in others.**
- (2) Sister A and Sister B worked in the same company. Sister A was not yet a believer and Sister B was a Christian. From Sister A's perspective, Sister B was quite stupid because she usually did things that others didn't want to, and she also did not speak up for herself. Therefore sometimes Sister A would manipulate her and give her some difficult tasks. Sometimes Sister A lost her patience and had a bad attitude, but Sister B still treated Sister A with love. Finally, one day Sister A asked Sister B if she could come to church, and eventually Sister A became a full time minister.

Sister A later found out that Sister B was not dumb and was very smart, but she willingly chose to suffer, and was not willing to fight or complain. The true inner life of Sister B earned the salvation of Sister A. She used to not want to go to church at all, but eventually became a full time minister.

The inner life is to live a life of total humility and lift up the Lamb, so that the life of the Lamb may be manifested from us.

- (3) A sister's husband often liked to belittle her and expose her past scars, because he was her second marriage. In the past she would usually talk back, which was the normal reaction of a sinner. However, once she started to practice inner life, God convicted that, no matter how your husband belittled you or humiliated you, you should elevate him. The more he belittled you, the more you should praise him. When she chose to humble herself with tears and obeyed God, her husband was shocked and changed his words to her.

Sister Pearl Young once said, "your old self and my old self are equally horrible and dreadful." The old self cares most about my dignity and my face. Anyone who hurts my dignity, I must stab it back. So when the sister just started to practice so, it was really hurting her to a degree that it bleeds. But when she was willing to keep doing it, she obtained her release and freedom. This is God's salvation.

Sometimes we are controlled by our prideful self so much that, even just a facial expression or a word from someone can hurt us so easily. We become imprisoned by our old-self and we cannot be free. God's way to save us from our old self is through others who belittle us and hurt us. You can react in two ways: one is to talk back defensively so that your self gets bigger and bigger. And the bigger your old self is, the easier it is to be shot by arrows from the enemy. **The second option is to humble ourselves. Elevate,**

praise, affirm, and honor the person who hurts us. In this way, our old self will become smaller and smaller. Eventually no arrows can hit our old selves. We can crawl forward like the chosen soldier in God's kingdom.

If you are willing to humble yourselves, your inner man will grow stronger. This is the salvation of Jesus. Not only will you obtain your salvation, but the salvation will bring authority, and the same salvation can work on your enemies or the ones who hurt you.

When this sister used to reason with her husband, he would go on and on, and when she accepted this, he had nothing more to say. Brothers and sisters, this is how we receive the inheritance. **If we eat our enemies as spoils, then our inner man can grow into the full stature of Christ. It can grow into the image of a humble lamb. It is so wonderful! This is the wisdom of God.** Only the humility of Jesus can heal this proud world.

Jesus ascended to heaven and gave the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, the Spirit of the meek and humble Lamb, but also the Spirit of victory, that we might bring salvation to the world through the Spirit of humility, the Spirit of the Lamb, and be able to deliver people from the corruptions of this proud world.

We Christians should win more people to the Lord by demonstrating the humility of the Lamb in our homes, in our offices, in our schools and on the streets. Pride hardens our hearts and makes them indifferent, but only the humility of the Lamb can move the hardened heart.

When a person just starts to humble himself, perhaps we will be misunderstood and looked down upon because of our humility. If you like to suffer, why don't we just let you suffer more? Every time when you humble yourself, maybe your colleagues will do that, or your family will treat you that way. **But as you continue to manifest the humility of the Lamb there, the glory of Christ's humility, the power of humility, the beauty of humility will be manifested, and those around you will be amazed, and the light of life will shine in them, and they will come to the glory of the humble man. That is salvation—a salvation that can be passed on.**

- (4) There was a brother in Hsinchu who worked as a manager in a unit of ITRI. He was always very humble with people, so he brought many people from his office to church. When they came to Christ, they said that although this brother was a manager, he was very humble and he won his subordinates to the Lord. We need to win our families to the Lord, win our spouses and children to the Lord, not by saying something like, "You have to believe in Jesus! I will be very angry if you don't believe in Jesus!" It is only through your humility that you can attract them to Jesus.

I know many wives who were originally the kings at home, but once they entered the inner life they became lambs; originally they were the lions and tigers at home, but once they entered the inner life they became mice. It is always through this that

they can win their family members to Christ. This is how God brings salvation. If you still think that you are the king of the household, feel that my husband and my kids should all listen to me, and they should all come to the Lord lest I get angry, that is not going to work. **Salvation can only be brought through humility. Every time we humble ourselves, the beauty of salvation is revealed.**

- (5) A sister had two children, one smart and intelligent, and the other one is intellectually challenged because of birth injury. In the past, when she taught this intellectually challenged child, she used to be very impatient, and unknowingly she started to like the other child more. However, after she started to live an inner life, she had the love and perspective from God, and realized that this child was also very precious. So she stopped to evaluate her kids based on their grades or intelligence, but instead started to appreciate them more. The father of the child was also a very proud man. He would serve at church and went to play golf after the Sunday service, living an aristocratic Christian life. However, because of this mentally challenged child, he began to humble himself and live an inner life. When another sister was waiting on the Lord, the Lord prompted her to ask the child's parents to teach the child to declare every day, "Jesus, give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation!" The father immediately followed her advice. A year later, the child changed. Her mother taught her middle school math, and she could do it, and she got straight A's (in a special class, of course), and the story was even featured in the newspaper!

Humility is accepting the child that God has given me; the child that God has given me is the best. To be humble is to accept my lack, to accept my shortcomings, my incompleteness, to stop defending, resisting, rejecting. Through this we will receive humility, and can bring salvation to ourselves and our children. If you have a very proud boss, you can try to react through humility, and then your boss will be saved. You will no longer be miserable every time you go to work, because you humble yourself, you will not be miserable anymore. You know that every time I have won this victory over my old self, Lord Jesus has won over me. When you do that, you will win the soul of your boss. God wants us to walk in His footsteps, because the Son of God brings us beautiful salvation by humbling Himself, by being obedient, and by coming to us. He delivered us from the pride and poison Satan has brought to us, and He led us into His humble kingdom. **How can we expand God's kingdom? The only way is for God's people to make themselves of no reputation and humble ourselves. Whenever we do this, the power of salvation will begin to work on those around us.**

II. Conclusion

Brothers and sisters, how important it is to be humble! If we want to experience more of God's salvation, and we desire God to bring blessing and salvation to others through us, then we have to always make ourselves of no reputation. Be determined to humble ourselves, just like Jesus. The book of Isaiah it mentioned when Jesus was oppressed, He did not even open His mouth. Ask the Lord to help us to desire such humility of the

Lord Jesus to be manifested in us, so that His salvation can be manifested through these “humble people” and save this proud world, proud husbands, proud wives, proud children. Through our humility, we can heal our proud bosses and subordinates; through our humility, we can heal this proud world.

Humility (XI) Assignment

1. In what way has God given us humility?
2. “Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”; what is the meaning of “grasped” in the original text? What is the meaning of “empty ourselves”?
3. What were some of the ways you used to evangelize?
4. How do you react when people belittle you or take advantage of you? Are you willing to be taken advantage of on something for Jesus’ sake?
5. Do you get hurt or embarrassed when you give out gospel tracts and people throw them on the floor or treat you badly? Is there anything you can learn from the sister in the testimony?
6. Did you use to be a lion or a tiger at home? What about now?
7. Did your family members come to faith in Christ? How did you convert them?
8. Scripture memorization: Isaiah 53:6-7.