Humility— Link to Learning!

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A common phrase today is *Send me* the *link*—to connect us to a huge variety of subjects and information, but the most important link we will ever have, is a link to learning spiritual lessons of faith in God. Before we can *learn* anything, we must realize we do not *know* everything.

The *attitude* of Jesus is shown in the *humility* of His birth in Bethlehem. Everything about His visit *with* us gives the example *for* us to emulate all though our Christian life—it is the *only* way to obtain a *knowledge* of God the Father.

When Jesus wanted disciples to give His Gospel Truth to the world, He selected poor, humble, working fishermen. After a man was healed by faith in the Name of Jesus, the apostle Peter said Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved...13 and [the people] perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men." God used these men to be a spiritual blessing to the world.

Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life." God wants to bring us to a place of victory—spiritually, physically, materially, and every other way. He wants us to be a spiritual *light* in a very *dark* world today—and we *will* be if we have a humble attitude of submission to God.

The apostles were not selected because of their education, their financial worth, or political influence, but because they *lacked* formal training; had few possessions; and no political influence. Their greatest *asset* was a humble *attitude*—an attitude that God can *teach* and *train*. The *less* we are of ourselves the *more* God is able to *teach* us. *Humility* is the only *attitude* to learn anything.

Humility is like a garment. 1 Peter 5:5 "All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists [opposes; is against] the proud, But gives grace to the humble." It is not good to have God against us—but the lack of humility will do that.

Humility brings us in favor with God and in a position to receive His blessings. When we are humble in spirit, God can teach us what we need to know. Taking a humble attitude brings us a position of promotion from God. 1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

If blessings come *slowly* or seem *sparse*, it is due to a lack humility in us. God promises to *exalt* us—spiritually, financially, at work, and in everything—if we will clothe ourselves with humility *first*—wanting *no* recognition; and desiring *no* praise; and *not* wanting any attention at all—and instead, giving glory to God by staying out of the picture.

God is pleased to take those who are nothing of themselves, and to exalt them as He did Abraham, Moses, Joseph, and others. When God exalts someone, it is the kind that includes His many blessings—which leads to receiving our full inheritance from *Him* and according to *His* schedule—that is being exalted in due time.

The humble enter Heaven—as Jesus said Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit [humble attitude]: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," and 5 "Blessed are the meek [true humility]: for they shall inherit the earth."

He also stated Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The humility of a child enables them to believe the word of a loving parent without question; and the humility of a Christian enables us to believe the words of a loving God without question. James 1:21 "Welcome in a humble spirit the Message implanted within you, which is able to save your souls."

We are to receive God's Truth in humility of spirit and without questioning His plan—just as the disciples believed all Jesus told them—instead of opposing the Word with worldly thoughts, ideas, and plans as unbelievers do.

The disciples were not prejudiced like the Scribes and Pharisees, so they raised no questions or objections, but just *believed* and *accepted* everything Jesus said. He *answered* their questions, and He *explained* the Scriptures to them—something He did *not* do for the Scribes and Pharisees, because they did *not have* a *humble* and *learning* attitude.

The disciples asked Jesus why He used parables to explain spiritual truths—Matthew 13:11 "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given"—because the Pharisees kept asking Jesus for miracles they could see; they were not willing to believe a God they could not see.

Jesus replied Matthew 12:39-40, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

The *humble* were given *signs*. Peter, James, and John were humble fishermen, so God enabled them to *see* marvelous miracles—Jairus' daughter raised to life; the apostle's mother-in-law

healed of a fever; and the amazing Transfiguration—where they saw Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah. They witnessed the glory of God—it was a glimpse of the next world.

God spoke to them Matthew 17:5 "Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." All of this was the result of their humility and their willingness to believe the Word of God.

The first evidence of *true humility* in someone's heart, is their being willing to accept the *Word of God* without question—not trying to get around it; over it; or under it, but just *accepting* it in *humble* submission to God. It will bring many blessings in this life and later save our soul.

The man lowered through the roof had *humility* of heart. When Jesus *saw* that the man was willing to accept His *words* and believe in *faith*, He said Matthew 9:2 "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." Those in the room with a *proud* spirit—opposite of humility—wanted to *see* something besides the Word of God, and they accused Jesus of blasphemy.

Matthew 9:4-6 "Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said," Why do you think evil in your hearts? "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

The man accepted what Jesus said in a spirit of *humility*, and through faith in His words, got up to walk. Humility that believes the *Word of God* opens the door to the *treasures of God*. Philippians 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Humility will go through trials without protesting, complaining or questioning. Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." Philippians 2:6-8 [Jesus] "being in the form of

God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Jesus gave us the example of doing all things without complaining; and without being argumentative or disagreeable, no matter what we are facing or what trial we are going through. Jesus responded to wrongs as He wants us to respond.

1 Peter 2:23 "Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously."

Jesus did not try to *right* His *wrongs*, but just turned them over to the Father—according to the Word Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

The *humble* and *obedient* attitude Jesus showed, is the *humble* and *obedient* attitude He wants *us* to have at all times and the attitude to show others. God's many blessings and rewards and eternal life—from taking that attitude of *humility*—are beyond describing Philippians 2:9 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."

That obedience to the will of God is possible through the Spirit of God—given as a gift to believers. Philippians 2:12 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

The one way to a true knowledge of God, is to take the humble attitude of Jesus. No matter what people *say* about you; what they do to *upset*

you; how they *cheat* you, *wrong* you, talk *abusively* to you, and leave you *out* of their plans—we are to meet it without a complaint.

Philippians 2:15 "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke [fault], in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Moses was clothed with *humility* so he *believed* what God told him, and he *met* everything as God instructed. Moses was the meekest man on earth—and his humility enabled God to make him a man of faith, who could pray and receive answers to those prayers. God enabled him to lead a huge host of rebellious people to the Promised Land.

When his time came to leave this world, Deuteronomy 34:7 "Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." An attitude of meekness and a spirit of humility enabled God to work with him in marvelous ways—leading the people; obtaining water for them; and saving their lives during the wilderness journey.

All because Moses was *humble*—the link to learning about God. Moses *believed* what God said to him and he *responded* as God said to respond. God will do the same for anyone—not because of any special ability in them; not because of any goodness or strength of their own, but only because they were willing to 1 Peter 5:5 "Be clothed with humility"—the Link to Learning!

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