



## The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 84 "Living for Humility not Honor" By Pastor Jody May

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### Luke 17:1-10 ESV

#### Temptations to Sin

**17** And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup> Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,<sup>4</sup> and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

#### Increase Our Faith

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

#### Unworthy Servants

<sup>7</sup> "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? <sup>8</sup> Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup> Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

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In April of 1912 there was a famous ship that set sail on her maiden voyage, perhaps you heard of it, the Titanic. It was billed as the unsinkable ship. In the late night of April 14<sup>th</sup> she hit an iceberg sinking her just shy of three hours killing 1,500 of the almost 2,300 people on board. It was noted that she had been warned of floating ice across her path, but the captain and crew took little



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precautions by refusing to slow her down and situated just a few lookouts. In the end, their dependency on her untested fame got most of them killed. This was the Pride of man, in all its' glory, almost as if another tower of Babel had been erected, and it was taken out by a non-aggressive act of nature.

This is what happens when we let Pride take over our lives. The sin of Pride is sneaky, it grows in everyone's heart like a cancer, and usually it takes someone else in your life to find it and bring it to your attention. Hopefully at that point, unlike the crew of the Titanic, we all slow down, we become aware of our trust in ourselves, how we are ordering our lives, and we heed the warnings from other Christians and God's Word.

Pride, at this point in history, is something we hear a lot about in culture and pride is elevated and pushed as the **honorable thing** to have. Secular culture believes that the answer to your low self-esteem is to increase your pride in oneself, but the Bible says in

### **Jeremiah 9:24**

*"but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."*

We are to boast in our great God, what He does by His mighty hand, not by what we do, which is all controlled by Him anyway. When we boast about ourselves, we are becoming idolatrous, it's all about us.

"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him." So says wise old Solomon. And heading up the list of these seven deadly sins is "haughty eyes" (Proverbs 6:16-17). Haughty eyes are an arrogant man's windows to the world. From the lofty perch of his own superiority, he uses them to look down upon others. From his self-made pedestal, he fancies he can see with greater clarity than his Creator. – (Tim Challis)



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The more familiar I become with Jesus the more I look away from Him and the more I turn around at others and think why aren't you more like me? That is haughty eyes... - Larry Osborne

We tend to use the Bible as binoculars to look at people's faults so we get a sense of better self-worth instead of using the Bible as the magnifying glass/mirror on our own lives so we can be about dealing with our sin. And you see the world encourage that, the binocular use! It is hard not to get caught up in the 'me-too' movement of "*I like who I am, I like people who like it when I like who I am, and I find value in crying out against others like me*".

Look there is a time and place to actually stand up for yourself and say by God's grace I am what I am but in the same breath you better be ok to say, and I know I am not there yet because I want God to make me like Christ.

Listen here's reality, Pride is a huge deal, it is what got Satan kicked out of heaven.

I know for some people, there is a continual battle to like yourself, the way you are, it's hard to accept that God made you wonderfully, to be used for good works that were determined before you were created. But, some of us have resorted to a fake Pride, we practice chanting our praises and invite others to like what we are doing. I just want to say to you, you don't have to do that, but let the Lord and His sacrifice for you tell you how to think about yourself. If the God of the universe would die for you then you have more worth than you know.

Perhaps some of you need to hear me propose this dilemma in a different way today and I heard it said like this the other day: *It's not thinking less about yourself but it's thinking about yourself less.*

This is why this all matters today, because yes God does hate Pride, but He loves humility, and it is through humility that we become like His Son.

Proverbs 3:34 the Scripture says, "God gives grace to the humble. But God is hostile, in opposition, to the proud." That clear statement, unmistakable truth is



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repeated twice in the New Testament. It is repeated by James, the brother of our Lord, in James chapter 4 and verse 6, and it is repeated by Peter the apostle in 1 Peter 5:5. "God gives grace to the humble but is opposed to the proud."

You could do a lot in your path of sanctification but if you are not striving for a humble heart then it is a waste of time.

In our scripture today, Pride is what kept the Pharisees from seeing their sin. Pride is what kept them holding on so tight to their places in honor in the town, the synagogue, and all the best seats everywhere they went. Pride is what kept them mad at Jesus all their lives for they were afraid of losing their places of honor. Pride is what had shaped them into their true form like their true father, as Jesus said, Satan.

Jesus in chapter 17 now directs His attention though to His disciples and with just a few months left in His ministry He begins to exhort them on the dangers of Pride. As a matter of fact, it is not the first time and it won't be the last. Jesus had already taught on this: In Luke 14 and verse 11 our Lord says, "For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

But Jesus in our passage today wants to make sure that His disciples are pursuing life, the Way of the Kingdom through humble hearts and not through Proudful ones.

In contrast today I want us to see how Jesus describes the life of the Humble Disciple, so that we might steer away from the spiritual icebergs floating in our path for if we don't, we are just an accident waiting to happen.

### **1. The Humble are wary...**

**17** And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup> Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,<sup>4</sup> and if he sins against you seven



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times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Temptations are sure to come, that's an understatement Jesus! 😊 Remember Peter was the first one to get this pop quiz, Jesus was like, "Oh yeah Peter Satan asked me for you, don't worry I am gonna pray for ya." Peter showed us what it looks like to fail in serving the Lord. That's ok because it was the grace of Jesus, after the resurrection, when He reinstated Peter, that changed Him.

**Peter take care of my sheep (translation – the *Little Ones*), teach them the right things, the right doctrine!** Don't get caught up in Pride like the Pharisees. It would be better if you tied a gigantic rock around your neck Peter and just jump in next time you go fishing! Here is the warning from Jesus, about resisting Pride, for the believers in this room:

**The Humble are aware of pride so as to not lead people into false doctrine or sin.**

The pharisees were leading people down a road that didn't boast in God but they were teaching people how to boast in themselves. They were modeling a man made religion of how your behavior gained the approval of others to make you feel good about yourself.

Today you may not be a teacher of God's word in an official way but if you call yourself a believer in here, they you are a teacher of God's Word in some way, **therefore we ALL are held accountable to this**, not just me! Parents, I think about you in here. What are you modeling for your children? What do they see you do, not just say? Do they see you worry about the world too much? Do they see you arguing loudly making sure your rights are heard by your spouse? Do they see you lay down your lives for each other? Are you teaching the doctrine that Jesus taught us by thinking less of Himself so He could die and save us? Are you modeling mutual submission and the fact that love covers a multitude of sin?

Pride tells you, you don't have to change but others should how they think about you but the Gospel says you will change but it will be by the work of our God.



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And when someone doesn't like you because you appear weak then that's ok too, because then you are looking a lot like Jesus.

#### **2. The Humble are forgiving...**

<sup>3</sup> Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,<sup>4</sup> and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

This is a hard but put pretty self-explanatory verse to fight against Pride and to promote Humility. The Pharisees were very unforgiving people. It was their job to show people like the poor, the sick, the downtrodden, the sinners that their position in life was due to the wrath of God and their position was due to the favor of God BECAUSE of their behavior! The never preached the OT qualities that God love to forgive His people, that He was Steadfast in His love to the rebellious, for to do so would mean they would have to show grace to people themselves.

#### **The Humble forgive those that repent no matter how many times they ask.**

Jesus sets this all straight with the command of not just forgiving but if your brother/sister sins multiple times and repents you are to keep forgiving them! Now notice the condition, repent means to turn away from what they are doing. It shows that the person of faith is actively working towards getting better with their treatment of the person they are sinning against. I know many of us are scared of being abused. Of course, at this point I need to remind us what we learned in 1 Peter this week that we are to love our enemies as well.

Perhaps there is someone in your life that you need to let go of their slight against you. By holding on to the "right" of being offended against someone you are guilty of two things: first you withhold peace from your own life because your pride (there's the sin) demands retribution even though Jesus has paid for your restitution, and secondly you are guilty for we teach the wrong doctrine (vs1-2) of condemnation not reconciliation.



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If we want to be known as a loving church and a doctrinally sound church let's heed Paul's word for the church at Ephesus which was known to be both, even though she had her struggles:

### **Ephesians 4:31-32 ESV**

<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### **3. The Humble are weak...**

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

It is at this point in the story that I find myself regularly and I hope you do too. They cry out to Jesus.... Increase our FAITH! My question was what do you need to believe more in? Are they asking Jesus to help them believe that God is the avenger, that God will right all wrongs, that God is not going to let someone get away with anything? Jesus is perhaps offering the solution is NOT the AMOUNT of Faith that you have a problem with it is WHAT you have Faith in, that is the issue.

Perhaps the disciples were believing because we are with you Jesus that all things were going to be made right at that very moment! Of course that wasn't the plan! Centuries are going to go by until we see Him again, and still the command remains, you keep forgiving for that is exactly how I am loving you! So, this verse shows exactly what we need to do:

### **The Humble know they are weak, and are dependent on God.**

**True Disciples of Jesus know the impossibility of this life without Him!** It is impossible to be that loving and that forgiving without the HS directly involved in our lives. It is only by having faith in Jesus can we be set free from the sin of Pride and the bonds of hatred toward another person. Today, the gift of the Gospel is to pray to God for that strength to pray to God for that ability to forgive and when



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you find yourself doing it, you will find the greatest gift of your faith has been tested and you have found out the secret to Christian living as Paul did:

### **2 Corinthians 12:10 ESV**

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul discovered a truth that every Christian has to get to:

### **1 Timothy 1:15 ESV**

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

The Humble Disciple is constantly going to Jesus for strength because they have learned the depravity of their heart, but they also know that their testimony is at its' strongest when they are at their weakest and proclaim bold humility that they can't do it without Him.

### **4. The Humble are servants...**

<sup>7</sup> "Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? <sup>8</sup> Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup> Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

In closing this parable is the closing to Jesus lesson on the dangers of Pride and the value of humility. The Pharisees showed personality traits that demonstrated that they were offended at serving God. Jesus uses an example of a small farm in His day. In the story the word for servant is *dulos*, an owned slave. Jesus is demonstrating that it is expected of the servant to serve the master before he sits down to eat.





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My friends like the Pharisees the danger of Pride is to think he owes you for what you have done. The reality that Jesus paints is that He owns you for what He has done, and wherever that leads you, it is expected of you to obey...

**The Humble know they are not owed for service but are owned by His work.**

The Pharisees instead of waiting on Jesus were waiting to get rid of Him.

Family are you waiting on serving Jesus to see first what He is going to do for you? Is there something that you think He has to prove to you first before you obey His Word? Is there a sign you are waiting on to show He's put your concerns at the top of the list before you can begin to put on Humility?

Family, on this side of eternity, the expectation is to do what you have been bought to do, serve faithfully, and take joy that our master is receiving Glory. That is the greatest of all news, that Jesus is being recognized as Lord for His work is saving you from Pride and is demonstrating that hardened hearts can change by His atoning work.

But I want to close and remind you with more good news. In **Luke 12**, we already covered it, Jesus already shared the good news that for those that are wary of sharing the right doctrine, that those who are forgiving, that those who rely on Jesus when they are weak, and those that serve faithfully as the servant, that when we finally see Him He serves us! We will be rewarded for this life by the company of our master and king, to eat and rest in His presence and to finally be at peace in our new home.

**PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father,



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Go in the name of the Son,

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit,