

Series: Exodus
Title: True Humility
Text: Ex 10: 3-6
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Exodus 10: 3: And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me. 4: Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast: 5: And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field: 6: And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh.

We dealt with this question, in our question series. This time I want to preach it a little differently. Let's hear this word as God speaking directly to us. To the sinner who has yet to repent and cast his care on Christ, God says, "*How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me?*" To the one who is not submitting to God's word on how God saves, God says, "*How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me?*" To those in a trial, God says, "*How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me?*" To those dissatisfied with where God has put them in the world, God says, "*How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me.*" To the believer who thinks himself in no need of this instruction, God says, "*How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me.*"

DO I NEED TO BE HUMBLLED?

Let me ask myself, "Do I need to be humbled before God? Do I need to be *more* humbled before God?" Let me consider my heart and my actions.

Our triune God in Christ does as he will. Therefore, everything that comes to pass is God's will. Everything in the salvation of sinners is God's will. Am I in submission to God's will? Do I never murmur at God's providence, not even weather?

The things that please God are God's will. It pleased God to choose whom he would, "*For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.*" (1 Sam 12: 22) Have I been humbled to rejoice in God's free electing grace? Then why do I sometimes think God might forsake me?

It pleased God to bruise Christ our Substitute in our place—"It pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." (Is 53: 10-11) Am I humbled to delight in God's particular redemption accomplished for his people? Then why do I look to myself for anything?

It pleased God "*that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.*" (Col 1: 18-19) Am I pleased that all my fullness is Christ alone? Then when do I seek fullness in this world?

"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor 1: 21) Has God humbled me by this means? Has he so often strengthened me by this means? Then why do I sometimes grow cold? God says, "*how long before you humble yourself before me.*" I need this gospel bread more than I need daily bread.

It pleased God to reveal his Son in the hearts of his people at his predestinated time. Paul said, "*when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me.*" (Gal 1: 15-16) Did God humble me in regeneration in his time? Then why do I fret at God's timing in providence? Do I need to be humbled more and more?

It pleased God that each of his elect come to him through God-given faith in Christ—“*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” (Heb 11: 6) Has God given you faith in Christ? Then why do you not confess him in believer’s baptism. If I have, then why do I trust my carnal sight in unbelief?

It pleased God to gather his people together in and by Christ--“*Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*” (Eph 1: 9-10) Am I humbled to rejoice that God makes his people one in and by Christ alone? Then why do I feel alone in my suffering?

It pleased God to give his elect the kingdom of God by his free grace, apart from anything in us--“*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*” (Lu 12: 32) Have I been humbled to rejoice that God saves by free and sovereign grace apart from my works? Then why do I act like God’s grace is not sufficient to keep me?

In all these things, I am sure that all of us can say “I need to be humbled more and more before God.”

TRUE HUMILITY

Now, let us consider what true humility is. It is not mournful speech, a downcast appearance or outward acts of humility. That can conceal a proud spirit. Humility is resignation to the will of God. It is submission to God’s will in his word and submission to God’s will in providence. Humility is submission to God’s salvation in Christ through the preaching of the light of the glorious gospel of Christ. It is submission to Christ himself in whom God saves. It is the gift of God by the Holy Spirit of God.

Humility is the opposite of pride. Pride is what causes all these problems and doubts and fears in our life. We have a new man which is humbled by God and an old man that is nothing but pride. Listen to these scriptures that set pride and humility as opposites.

Proverbs 11:2: When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:19: Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 29:23: A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Did you know “pride” is the number one thing God hates?

Proverbs 6: 16: These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17: A proud look,...[pride of face, pride of place, pride of race, pride of grace]

Proverbs 16: 5: Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Isaiah 13:11: [God says]...I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Pride is what caused Satan to be cast out of heaven. And it filled Adam’s heart when he decided side with his wife against God.

Isaiah 14: 12: How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13: For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will

exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15: Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

This is why all unregenerate men think salvation is by their will! But sadly, for every believer, pride is with us in our old man of sin. Pride is our chief enemy!

Yet, while pride is the number one thing God hates, humility is the spirit God delights to receive.

Psalm 34:18: The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

God is near because the humbled in heart confess their sins before God: truly, with sorrow for the sake of our Lord who suffered for us. They bow to God's word—all of it—not parts of it—all of God's word. The broken and contrite believes on Christ for complete acceptance with God—*“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”* (Hab 2: 4) Those made humble by God sacrifice praise and adoration to God for his free salvation in Christ—*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”* (Ps 51: 17) When in need the Holy Spirit says,

Hosea 14: 2: Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. 3: Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy [the humbled, helpless, needy sinner]. 4: [God says] I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Luke 18: 9: [Christ] spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11: The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12: I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14: I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Not only does God receive his humbled child, God continually revives the spirit of the humble:

Isaiah 57: 15: For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

God hates pride but he loves a broken and contrite, holy spirit.

WHERE DO WE GET A HUMBLER SPIRIT?

Sinners get a humbled spirit from the preeminently humble GodMan, Christ Jesus. In Isaiah, the LORD declared to whom he would look to build his house, *“to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”* (Is 66: 2) Christ is the poor and contrite who trembled at God's word, to whom God looks to glorify him in the building of his house.

Philippians 2: 5: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Listen to Christ's humility. When the time came to go to Gethsemane to present himself to be made sin, knowing that he would suffer the wrath of God, he said this:

John 12: 27: Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28: Father, glorify thy name.

Christ illustrated what he did for his people on the cross and continually does for us in cleansing us day by day, the night he washed the disciples feet. *He took off his garment and gird himself with a towel*—like he took off his glory as the Son of God and humbled himself in our flesh. *He bowed down to the saint's feet*—like he made himself the very least on Calvary's cross. *He poured water into a bason*—like the blood and water poured out of his wounded side—he is our justification and sanctification his people. *Then he washed the disciples feet*—like he washed us on the cross, in regeneration and continually. *Afterward, he put his garments on and sat down*—like he arose and sat down at God's right hand. Brethren, by making himself the very least he saved us from our sin—and all his elect all over the world. He said, "*he that is least among you shall be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven*"—that is Christ! Then Christ said something else to his apostles and to us:

John 13: 13: Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. 14: If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15: For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16: Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17: If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

When the Spirit of Christ dwells in our hearts, he gives us a new humbled heart! The humbled heart has been filled with love to lay down our lives to serve God's people like Christ loved us. The humble regard brethren better than themselves putting the best construction on misunderstandings, covering one another's sin, and carrying one another's burden.

Charity never faileth! The love God puts in the heart between brethren never faileth! Love never forsakes the gospel and never forsakes the brethren. It is because God sustains the love he puts in the heart so that we love as God loves—never abandoning those for whom Christ died.

God says to the sinner who refuses to confess him in faith, '*How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me?*' If you refuse then you treasure up wrath upon wrath for the day of judgment (Rom_2:4-5). You prove your ignorance by fighting against God. You are in danger of God's wrath every moment

But to you and me—believing sinners—who God has humbled by his irresistible grace, he says,

1 Peter 5: 5 ...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God [as Christ did], that he may exalt *you* in due time [as he did Christ. How do I humble myself?]: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. [that is what Christ did, he committed it to him that judgeth righteously, that is what he tells us to do—commit all our care to Christ.]

Amen!