

Matthew 5:1-5

Humility is necessary to Enter the Kingdom

¹ When he saw the crowds,
he went up on **the mountain**,
and after he sat down,
his disciples came to him.

- **the mountain**: The Sermon on the Mount

² Then he began to teach them, saying:

^{1.)} ³ “**Blessed** are **the poor in spirit**,
for the kingdom of heaven is [PI] theirs.

- **Blessed**: A condition, a truth, an inward state rather than a feeling. This isn't Happy!
- **the poor in spirit**:
 - This isn't poverty! A man can possess no earthly possessions and still not possess this spirit
 - A condition, a truth, an inward state rather than a feeling; without which you are not saved
 - A state of humility, an emptying of pride, a consciousness of sin, the inability to pay the debt owed
- **the kingdom of heaven**: This prize of prizes belongs presently and eternally to those who believe

^{2.)} ⁴ **Blessed** are **those who mourn**,
for they will be comforted [FPI].

- **those who mourn**: 9 Greek words for sorrow, this is strongest, most severe. pierced to the heart (**Ac 2:37**)
- **will be comforted**: Comforted in this life but certainly in the life that is to come

^{3.)} ⁵ **Blessed** are **the humble**,
for they will inherit the earth [FAI].

- **the humble**: Strength under control. A meek and gentle attitude expressed in patient submissiveness
- **will inherit the earth**: The meek soul gets the best out of this life and eternal reward in the life to come

APPLICATION:

- Test yourself this very moment! ¹ ²
 - Have you recognised your state of spiritual poverty before God?
 - Have you had your heart pierced as you mourn your sin?
 - Have you humbled yourself before God?
- **Humility is necessary to Enter the Kingdom**

TRANSITION:

- **Humility is not only necessary to Enter the Kingdom; but Humility is also pattern of the Kingdom's King**

John 13:1-5, 12-15

Humility is the pattern of the Kingdom's King

¹ Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew [RAP] that his hour had come [RAI] to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- Jesus knew that his hour had come: The stage was set, He was to intentionally go to the cross
- he loved them to the end: What does sacrificial love look like?

² Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put [RAP] it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him.

³ Jesus knew [RAP]

- 1.) that the Father had given [RAI] everything into his hands,
- 2.) that he had come from God,
- 3.) and that he was going back to God.

To be humble is the absence of pride or arrogance in one's own importance or performance:

1. the Father had given everything into his hands: All the authority of God
2. come from God: All the essence of God
3. going back to God: All the glory of of God

⁴ So

- 1.) he got up from supper,
- 2.) laid aside his outer clothing,
- 3.) took a towel,
- 4.) and tied it around himself.

⁵ Next,

- 5.) he poured water into a basin and began

- 6.) to wash his disciples' feet

- 7.) and to dry them with the towel tied around him [RPP].

- to wash his disciples' feet:
 - Sandals on the filthy roads
 - people reclined at a low table and feet were very much in evidence
 - the work of the lowliest of servants

¹² When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you?"

- "Do you know what I have done for you?": This was parable of sorts: physical vs spiritual

¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am.

a.) ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,

b.) you also ought to wash one another's feet.

¹⁵ For I have given you an example,

that you also should do just as I have done for you.

- ¹⁵ For I have given you an example: A pattern of attitude and conduct to be followed

APPLICATION: ③ ④

- **Humility is the pattern of the Kingdom's King**

TRANSITION:

- **Humility is not only necessary to Enter the Kingdom; and Humility is the pattern of the Kingdom's King; but Humility is the cure to Disunity in the Kingdom**

Philippians 2:3-5

Humility is the cure Disunity in the Kingdom

Context:

- **Preachers in Rome: Ph 1:17**, ¹⁵ To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry... ..the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely...
- **Euodia and Syntyche: Ph 4:2-3**, ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side...
- **The Gospel is at stake: Ph 1:27**, ...live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ... ..you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel
- **4 Motives for Spiritual Unity: Ph 2:1**,
 - 1.) ¹ If [and there is!] then there is any encouragement in Christ,
 - 2.) if any consolation of love,
 - 3.) if any fellowship with the Spirit,
 - 4.) if any affection and mercy
- **4 Marks of Spiritual Unity: Ph 2:2**, ² make my joy complete by
 - 1.) thinking the same way,
 - 2.) having the same love,
 - 3.) united in spirit,
 - 4.) intent on one purpose.

-.) ³ Do nothing out of

1.) selfish ambition [ἐπιθειαν, ASF]

2.) or conceit [κενοδοξίαν, ASF],

- selfish ambition is:
 - **A sin: Ga 5:20**, ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - **Punishable: Ro 2:8**, ⁶ He will repay each one according to his works: ⁷ eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness.
 - **Related to other social sins: 2 Co 12:20**, ²⁰ For I fear that perhaps when I come I will not find you to be what I want, and you may not find me to be what you want. Perhaps there will be quarreling, jealousy, angry outbursts, selfish ambitions, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder.
 - Contention(-ious), strife, rivalry
- conceit is:
 - foolish fancy, vain opinion, error, vain-glory, groundless conceit, empty glorying, self-conceit

TRANSITION and APPLICATION:

- How can we fight against selfish ambition and conceit?

+..) but in humility [τῇ ταπεινοφροσύνῃ, DSF]

1.) consider [ἡγούμενοι, PMP] others

2.) as more important than [ὑπερέχοντας, PAP] yourselves.

- humility:
 - What is humility?
 - Modesty, humbleness of mind
- consider others: it is difficult to be selfishly ambitious or conceited when you're thinking about others
- as more important than: This is the opposite of entitlement
- Humility the cure Disunity in the Kingdom

TRANSITION and APPLICATION:

- How can we fight against selfish ambition and conceit?

-.) ⁴ Everyone **should** [must] **look out** [σκοπεῖτε, PAP] not only for his own [interests],

- interests: the word isn't there. Finances, Home, Family, Passions, Ministry
- **look out**: read, study, watch the signs, beware... This active not passive not middle

+.) **but** also for the interests of **others**.

- **others**: **Positive**: ☺ Be at peace, ☺ Be devoted, ☺ Honor, ☺ Live in harmony, ☺ Accept, ☺ Instruct, ☺ Greet with a holy kissx4, ☺ Wait, ☺ Have equal concern, ☺ Serve, ☺ carry each other's burdens, ☺ Be patient, ☺ Bearing, ☺ Be kind and compassionate, ☺ Forgive, ☺ Speak, ☺ Submit, ☺ Consider others better, ☺ Teach, ☺ Admonish, ☺ Encourage, ☺ Build, ☺ Spur, ☺ Confess your sins, ☺ Pray, ☺ Live in harmony, ☺ Offer hospitality, ☺ Clothe yourselves with humility, ☺ Love x15. **Negative**: ☹ Stop passing judgment, ☹ Become conceited, ☹ Provoking and envying, ☹ Bite and devour, ☹ Lie, ☹ Grumble, ☹ Slander/Criticize/Judge

The APPLICATION of Humility in different spheres of life:

- Home:
 - The Mother and Wife: self-sacrificing for the needs of her children, the needs of her family
 - The Husband: goes to work to makes ends meet. Comes home beat and engages even though tired
 - The Child: Give up a seat; pay attention to teachers; take care of another kid on the playground
- Politicians: 😊
- Churches Disagree over REALLY Silly Things!
 - Whether to build a children's playground or, **wait for it...** use the land for a cemetery
 - ½ hour church meeting, **and vote**, on whether to use two-ply or **SUPER SOFT** three-ply toilet paper
 - A dispute over whether the worship leader should have his shoes on during the service (+ + +)
 - An argument in church over who should have access to the church printer
 - A major fight, and later split, because one member hid the church vacuum cleaner from another (☹)
 - An argument over whether to have gluten-free communion bread (**21st Century, 1st world problems**)
 - An spat over whether the fake, dusty plants should be removed from the sanctuary or not
 - The appropriate length of the worship pastor's beard (**S, E and W take note, not longer than mine!**)
 - What type of green beans the church should serve (**Ask me! The answer is none!**)
 - The right blend of coffee the church should serve (**Two! And I'd like us to consider a third!**)
- **There are Valid Issues that could Escalate to Conflict** :
 - **The Issue of Resources**: There're just not enough rooms to run all our ministries effectively or efficiently. There's only so much money in the budget which means our Fincom can't do everything it wants and often has to make tough choices between two good options
 - **The Issue of Goals**: Sometimes believers have incompatible interests (Paul thought John-Mark wasn't ready for the mission, Barnabas believed he was), disagreement about strategy (go to two services, move to new building, extend our current building), disagreement about implementation (go to two services next week, next month, next year)
 - **The Issue of Communication**: Lack of information, Miscommunication, Assumptions, Inconsiderate
 - **The Issue of Style**: Perfectionism vs Pragmatism, Contemporary vs Traditional
 - **The Issue of Pressure**: Normal ministry stress, volunteers get fatigued, pastors burnout