



Empowering People to Change the World

## **Humility – The Cardinal Virtue Part 2**

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## Humility: The Cardinal Virtue Part 2

**Last week, we looked at the only one place in Scripture where Jesus describes His own character. It's the only place where Jesus speaks of the main virtue of His heart.**

### **Matthew 11:25-30**

- We must learn from Jesus. This is the only place in scripture where Jesus identifies His character.
- He says He is “gentle and lowly in heart.” He promises that if we will “learn from [Him]” we will discover “rest for our souls.” What a beautiful promise!

### **I believe humility is the Cardinal Virtue**

- It is from humility that all other virtues are birthed in our life.
- Humility is the soil from which grace grows—Peter said it, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

### **Last week, I shared a definition of humility:**

1) **Jesus**. Let's be real here. Jesus is the only perfect example of Humility. He said of Himself “I am gentle and meek in heart.”

- ♣ Humility is Jesus! That means the life Jesus lived, the way Jesus talked and walked is humility!
- ♣ This is why we call this study of Matthew, “A Kingdom of God Revolution.”
- ♣ We are looking at the life of Jesus! Jesus IS the Kingdom. If we truly want a Kingdom revolution, we must live like Jesus, pray and walk like Jesus, love like Jesus.

2) **True Humility is Entire Dependence on God**. This is the highest virtue.

- ♣ This is the soil that grace grows in our lives—humility is the soil. Peter said it well, “He gives grace to the humble.” The soil is humility, grace grows there!
- ♣ On the other hand, the soil from which all sin grows, is pride.
- ♣ In our passage, Jesus says first, “Come to Me...Take My yoke...then He says ‘Learn from Me.’”
- ♣ True Humility is entire dependence on God.

3) **True Humility is Death to Self.** This is a tough one because we are trained since childhood to watch our back, take care of ourself, discipline ourself, fight for our rights.

- ♣ The way of all humans: Me, me, me.
- ♣ Jesus came to break off the power of Me and replace it with the power of Him!
- ♣ It’s all about Him!!
- ♣ Death to self...Life found in Him!
- ♣ Death to self can’t happen without Christ.
- ♣ As I’ve called it “the power to be out of control.”
- ♣ Giving the Holy Spirit your life, your desires, your struggles, even your victories.

In our passage Jesus says: Come to ME...Take MY yoke...Learn from ME.

In the Gospel of John, more than any of the synoptic gospels, we see the inner life of Jesus revealed to us.

- Jesus reveals His complete dependence on the Father.
- Jesus reveals His motives.

- Jesus reveals His complete surrender and submissive attitude toward God.

## **Humility in Action: Jesus is fully surrendered to His Father**

Listen to the words of Jesus in describing His relationship with the Father. He consistently used the words **not** and **nothing** in describing Himself. But then He says that everything He has and does (will, power, authority, etc.) comes from the Father. (Paul used the phrase **not I** in his description of his walk with God.)

- **In John 5:17** But Jesus answered them, ***“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”***  
John 5
- ***19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.***
- ***20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.***
- ***26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.***
- ***30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.***
- ***31 “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.***
- ***36 But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.***
- ***41 “I do not receive honor from men.***

- In John 6 <sup>38</sup> *For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*
- In John 7 <sup>16</sup> *Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.*
- <sup>28</sup> *Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, “You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. <sup>29</sup> But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”*
- In John 8 <sup>14</sup> *Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.*
- <sup>16</sup> *And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.*
- <sup>28</sup> *Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. <sup>29</sup> And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”*
- <sup>42</sup> *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.*
- <sup>50</sup> *And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges.*
- In John 9 <sup>4</sup> *I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

Jesus teaches us the essence of the state of our heart toward Him, through His submitted life to the Father.

- God needs empty vessels to fill.
- God needs surrendered hearts to empower.
- God needs our will, emotions, and power submitted to Him.
- This is true humility and the way to love and joy in our lives!

Andrew Murray writes, “We must learn of Jesus, how He is meek and lowly of heart. He teaches us where true humility begins and finds its strength—in the knowledge that it is God who works all in all, that our place is to yield to Him in perfect resignation and dependence, in full consent to be and to do nothing of ourselves. This is the kind of life Jesus came to reveal.”

**How do we renew our Mind and Actions to the greatest of virtues? To the way of seeking the Kingdom of God as first in our life?**

**Turn in your Bible to Philippians 2:5-9**

***<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.***

- Here’s the point, change your thinking; do not think naturally, think supernaturally.
  1. Don’t try to be like God! Don’t even think you know everything. He’s the only One who knows. Trust Him.
  2. Learn to be a Bondservant. Start giving, loving, and serving others any chance you get. At the store, in your home, in your neighborhood. Love people. Just start helping out and leaving room for the Kingdom in your life. Ask your waitress if she needs prayer. Ask your elderly neighbor if you can get anything for them...
  3. Just obey Jesus! Jesus said, “if you love Me you will obey my commands” Read God’s Word and obey it.

**This coming week is Holy Week...let's make it holy!!**

Let's go out and BE JESUS. Be wholehearted disciples!

- Love conquers a multitude of sins!
- Love brings people together.
- Love serves others.

Humility is living like, praying like, loving like Jesus!