

Servants of Christ Jesus

Promise: humbled by the Word we will be exalted with our Lord

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Proverbs 25:2-10; Psalm 131; Hebrews 13:1-17; [Luke 14:1-14](#)
(12th Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 17], 9/1/19)

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. – v. 11

Lead In – I kidded for years that I am working on a book that I hope to publish entitled: Ten Steps to True Humility: How I Alone Achieved It... In the light of the pretention and the legalistic nitpicking of many of Israel's religious leaders, Jesus coaches humility upon his disciples...

I. More Than A Parable Of Practical Good Sense

II. Working Definition Of Humility

III. False Paths Of Humility

- A. Underestimating and denigrating self...
- B. Taking charge of our humility project...
- C. Measuring our spiritual growth (pride or despair)

IV. God's Work And the Reception of His Word

- A. God's Law and the frailty of our lives...
- B. Recognizing our desperate need – beggars...
- C. Joining Apostles in being servants...

Parting Shot – Might I suggest a better working title for a book on humility – Servants of Christ Jesus. We need to realize we are not even worthy to be his servants! But here is the kicker: King Jesus has first served us, taking the form of a servant, and humbling himself... This so we might give up the task of exalting ourselves...

Pr 25:6-7a Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Humble: Referring to low as opposed to high, especially in having a lower rank or position. Before God it refers to recognizing he is God, and we are not – we are creatures utterly dependent upon God for our existence and sustenance.

Expl to 1st Art: I believe God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, and I need from day to day. ...

Rom 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Luke 14:7-11 ESV

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Ps 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Incurvatus in se (Latin for turned/curved inward on yourself) – describing a life lived "inward" for oneself rather than "outward" for God and others.

Phil 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Summary to Comm: God warns that he will punish all who break these commandments. Therefore we are to fear his wrath and not disobey him.

Psalms 102:11 My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

Expl to 2nd Art: ...At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil...

Rom 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Phil 2:7-8 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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