

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
THE WAY OF HUMILITY, PT. 1
MARCH 12TH, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. The Values of the Kingdom

A. In Jesus' first public sermon, the Sermon on the Mount (Mat 5-7), He lays out the value system of the Kingdom of God. Many people refer to the blessed traits that Jesus enumerates in Matthew 5:2-12 as the Beatitudes (supreme blessedness). These traits can also be understood as the core values of the Kingdom of God.

Mat 5:2-12 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

B. In order to live by these values a person must embrace humility as a life standard. If each of the values of the kingdom requires humility to live by them, humility is a critical heart posture for the believer.

II. Jesus' Example

A. Jesus teachings throughout the gospels are supportive teachings to the Sermon on the Mount. In other words He lays out the framework of His three and a half year ministry in the Sermon on the Mount and then develops those themes over the next several years.

B. Though Jesus taught much on the subject of humility, when studying the gospels we find that His emphasis on humility is different than all other subjects, even love.

Mat 11:25, 28-30 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants... 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (NASB)

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C. There is only one subject where Jesus directly tells us that we should learn from Him, that's the subject of Humility. This tells us several things: Meekness is incredibly important. Meekness is much easier caught than taught. Jesus' personal illustration of meekness is far greater than a teaching on the subject. He tells us to look at Him, how he speaks and acts and we will understand humility.

D. Furthermore this passage is the only time in the Gospels that Jesus describes Himself using a specific attribute, He says, "I am gentle(meek) and humble(lowly). "

E. Jesus is without question the most humble man who has ever-lived. He is the pre-eminent One (Col 1:18), the Alpha and Omega (Rev 1:11), the Creator of all things (John 1:3). And at the same time He is the Servant of all.

Mat 20:28 the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

III. Conformity to Jesus' nature

A. We want to be people who love Jesus with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. If we do not love humility, it's hard to imagine that we can truly love Jesus. There is no true fellowship with Jesus outside of the genuine pursuit of humility.

B. This is a massive challenge because there is nothing more foreign to the fallen human nature than humility. It's because outside of Jesus we all have the nature of Satan (John 8:44). His nature is the anti-thesis of Jesus' nature. Jesus is the truth; Satan is the Father of Lies. Jesus is meek and lowly Satan is originator of arrogance.

C. Humility isn't something you learn in a seminar. It takes a deep decision to embrace the nature of Christ and then is walked out thousands of times throughout a lifetime.

D. The way this works in our lives is that we repent of pride in all forms, which at the core is a change of our minds, and then God is the one who changes the heart.

E. We must determine to walk the way of humility and live at war with pride. We need to go on a journey to attack pride in every form in our lives, asking the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of Christ.