

FALLING UPON THE ROCK

Text: Luke 20:18

Key Word: Humility

Key Thought: God Is Calling Forth a Humble People to Serve Him

*** William Carey is considered the father of modern missions. The man who spent his early years as a cobbler became one of the greatest linguists the church has ever known. It's reported that Carey translated parts of the Bible into as many as 24 Indian languages. When he first went to India, some regarded him with dislike and contempt.

At a dinner party a distinguished guest, hoping to humiliate Carey, said in a loud voice, *"I suppose, Mr. Carey, you once worked as a shoemaker."*

Carey responded humbly, *"No, your lordship, not as a shoemaker, only a cobbler."*

Carey didn't claim to make shoes, only to mend them.

"Today in the Word"
September 21, 1995, p. 28

Humility is an incredible gift that God has given to those who recognize and respect its value. I believe that it can be one of the greatest assets that a Church can be blessed with. It far exceeds the worth of talents and treasures. When it is added to anyone's life, I suggest that that individual will stand out in all other areas of significance as well.

"Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself one way or the other at all."

William Temple
"Christ in His Church"

Hudson Taylor was scheduled to speak at a Large Presbyterian church in Melbourne, Australia. The moderator of the service introduced the missionary in eloquent and glowing terms. He told the large congregation all that Taylor had accomplished in China, and then presented him as *"our illustrious guest."*

Taylor stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, *"Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master."*

Warren Wiersbe
"Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers" p. 243

How Does True Humility Show Itself?

I. IN OUR GRIEVANCES

II. IN OUR GROWTH

III. IN OUR GIVING

I. IN OUR GRIEVANCES

A sure test of anyone's humility is when they are treated wrongly. A **"grievance"** is (according to Funk & Wagnal's Dictionary) ***"a feeling of resentment arising from a sense of having been wronged."*** How do we respond to others who have wronged us? Does our attitude change? Do we act in a manner that we feel we need to get revenge?

If anyone had a grievance in this world, it was Jesus. He was constantly wronged by those who opposed Him. This chapter clearly exposes those who tried to silence the truth He was teaching. I love the way He handled these kinds of people. He answered their questions by asking a question of His own. He allowed them to see into their own hearts by telling them a parable. He also gave support for both Caesar and God's kingdom with a simple object lesson using a denarius. He taught on marriage and angels and even the resurrection to those who denied there was a resurrection. Jesus could have tried to get revenge on those who were attempting to trap Him and bring accusations against Him. Instead, He simply presented **TRUTH** to them in a humble manner. He used the O.T. Scriptures to expose the hypocrisy of His day.

A group of tourists asked an old man if any great men were born in this small town. *"No. Only babies."*

"New Man"
March/April 1997, p. 18

I received the following email over the Christmas holidays from a fellow pastor which said, *"Most or some of you may be aware that this year was a trying year for me; in fact it was the worst to date. In October of 2002 my wife had abandoned me, leaving me to deal with it; without any personal communication to date other than a lawyer informing me that she had filed for a separation.*

I can tell each and every one of you that God surely does not fool around! The message I received from this was more powerful than any other message received to date. I can honestly admit that the events that took place over the past year have strengthened my faith, enhanced my ministry and has made me a better counselor and listener. It has taught me to hear with my ears, but listen with my heart. God is good isn't He? Talk about your loving Father, He never would have let me down. He knew what I needed and knew how to make me listen.

For those of you who were there for me, I thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul. May God bless you as He prepares us for the coming of our Redeemer.

II. IN OUR GROWTH

“The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.”

Chinese Proverb

Have you noticed that it is during the most difficult times in your life that your maturity level seems to take a sudden boost? It usually causes you to sit up and take notice of what is really important in life. Why is that so?

Jacob finally realized the wrong of his way after wrestling with God’s will (Genesis 32); Joseph accepted the fact that God uses the evil actions of even family members to bring about His salvation (Genesis 50:20). Did not Gideon win an impossible battle as He placed His trust in God to overcome insurmountable odds (Judges 6,7)? Was it not through the wicked king Manasseh who gave birth to Josiah who served as a righteous king (II Kings 22,23)? It was during Daniel and Ezekiel’s captivity that some of the most incredible prophetic visions were given. Ezra built the Temple and Nehemiah restored the wall of Jerusalem during troublesome times.

Paul chose to walk the pathway of humility even though he was given the greatest understanding of the mysteries of the Bible to unfold. During his imprisonment in Rome he wrote to the church at Philippi where he also had been beaten and imprisoned saying,

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”

Philippians 2:3

It was to this giant of Christian faith that God sent a messenger from Satan to buffet him. Through this experience Paul wrote God’s answer to his prayer of deliverance saying,

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

II Corinthians 12:9

Both men and women of the Bible found themselves humbled in the period of growth. Even Mary the mother of Jesus found the announcement of the shepherds almost impossible to believe. It kept her in a state of humble acceptance for many years.

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Luke 2:19

II. IN OUR GROWTH

The most significant example of humble growth is seen in our Saviour and Lord at the most trying time of His life on earth.

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

Philippians 2:8

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

*** When I saw Sadhu Sundar Singh in Europe, he had completed a tour around the world. People asked him, “Doesn't it do harm, your getting so much honor?” The Sadhu's answer was: “No. The donkey went into Jerusalem, and they put garments on the ground before him. He was not proud. He knew it was not done to honor him, but for Jesus, who was sitting on his back. When people honor me, I know it is not me, but the Lord, who does the job.” ***

*Corrie Ten Boom
“Each New Day”*

“Humility is something we should constantly pray for, yet never thank God that we have.”

M.R. De Haan

Paul wrote . . .

“I am the least of the apostles.”

1 Corinthians 15:9

“I am the very least of all the saints.”

Ephesians 3:8

“I am the foremost of sinners.”

1 Timothy 1:15

III. IN OUR GIVING

“When it comes to giving, some people will stop at nothing.”

Jimmy Carter

*** Charles Spurgeon and his wife, according to a story in the Chaplain magazine, would sell, but refused to give away, the eggs their chickens laid. Even close relatives were told, “*You may have them if you pay for them.*” As a result some people labeled the Spurgeons greedy and grasping.

They accepted the criticisms without defending themselves, and only after Mrs. Spurgeon died was the full story revealed. All the profits from the sale of eggs went to support two elderly widows.

Because the Spurgeons were unwilling to let their left hand know what the right hand was doing (Matthew. 6:3), they endured the attacks in silence. **We’d all like a reputation for generosity, and we’d all like to buy it cheap.** ***

Source Unknown

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke 1 of 6 verses deals with money. Of the 29 parables Christ told, 16 deal with a person and his money.

Sources Unknown

God has often chosen our charitable giving as a means to declare our humility. Never should anyone boast on what they give to the work of the Lord or to other worthy charitable agencies. Our hand, heart and homes should simply be a channel of God’s blessings to others in need just like the Spurgeons.

** A man had a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. He could receive little company and was not to be excited. While in the hospital a rich uncle died and left him a million dollars. His family wondered how to break the news to him with the least amount of excitement. It was decided to ask the preacher if he would go and break the news quietly to the man.

The preacher went, and gradually led up to the question. The preacher asked the patient what he would do if he inherited a million dollars. He said, “*I think I would give half of it to the church.*” The preacher dropped dead. **

Source Unknown

The secular mind also needs to know what God's people are doing to fulfil their requirements by both GOD AND CAESAR. Jesus made it clear that those who serve Him should be faithful in their paying of taxes as well as giving to the work of the Lord. Those who have a right attitude maintain a proper balance in their needs and their giving.

Lets us fall upon the Rock of our Salvation. In doing so (yet not for that purpose) we shall avoid having the Rock fall upon us.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.2024\Foundational Truths\Luke 20_18.wpd

Date: Jan 28/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30Am

Song: You're Worthy of My Praise - G

FALLING UPON THE ROCK

Text: Luke 20:18

Key Word: Humility

Key Thought: God Is Calling Forth a Humble People to Serve Him

How Does True Humility Show Itself?

I. IN OUR GRIEVANCES

II. IN OUR GROWTH - *Genesis 32; Genesis 50:20; Judges 6,7; II Kings 22,23; Philippians 2:3; II Corinthians 12:9; Luke 2:19; Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 12:2; I Corinthians 15:9; Ephesians 3:8; I Timothy 1:15*

III. IN OUR GIVING