

Pride & Humility 2

(6/29/25)

Please turn to *Matthew 23:12, John 15:18-20.*

LAST WEEK:

- We must remember where we came from.
- Who and what we were when Jesus found us and Saved us.
- I was a deceived New Ager who thought I was a good, moral person.
- I also believed I understood God and was in a good relationship with Him.
- Neither were true: I was a sinner on my way to destruction.
- Jesus came and got me, despite my rebellion against Him.
- I was drowning below the waves of an ocean, and Jesus threw me a rescue tube.
- I was sinking in miry quicksand and Jesus lifted me out of it, setting my feet on solid rock.
- He's the One Who's given me a purpose, fixed my destiny, then equipped me with gifts to carry out His mission.
- What do I have to brag about or be proud of? Him and Him alone!
- Our problem according to *Deuteronomy 8* is: ***when we start doing well in the physical or spiritual, a "blindness" comes upon us and we "forget" that it was the Lord Who got us here.***
- We start to believe it was or is us.
- Even if we acknowledge a gift or blessing as being from the Lord, pride will whisper that we got it because we're somehow special, more dedicated, or superior to another Christian.
- When I was first Saved I loved Jesus with all of me! Why?
- His grace and mercy were fresh in my memory and I spent lots of time contemplating how much He loved me to do what He did.
- Then time passes and pride causes us to "forget." When we forget, we fall away from that love.

Let's read today's verse of Scripture:

[Mat 23:12 ESV] Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

There's preaching with some circles that, in this life, **we're meant to have it all.**

Years ago I read a book by Joel Osteen titled "Your Best Life Now" where he compares the Church to Mephibosheth, the grandson of King Saul and the son of Jonathan.

Meph's story goes like this: when he was 5 years old his nanny was carrying him while she was fleeing. She'd just heard that both Saul and Jonathan had died in battle and she was afraid David was going to execute Meph. While running she drops him and breaks both of his feet, forever injuring him to where he cannot walk.

Years later David, after he's King, **remembers the covenant he made with Jonathan** and extends mercy to Meph. He invites him to come back to the palace and live there, eating at the King's table every night for the rest of his life.

In his aforementioned book, **Osteen then compares us to Meph and encourages us to go to God and "remind" Him of the covenant we're in.** That even though we may be weak and lame like Meph, we can boldly approach the throne of grace and ask for grace & mercy . . . and **prosperity too.** *To have our best life right now and not merely after the Resurrection.*

Despite everything I've read in the Bible, particularly the Gospel and NT, I **formerly** believed this to be true. Let me point out a few things:

- Despite being the Son of God, Messiah, and perfectly obedient Jesus was never raised up in His life here on earth.
- Despite being all in, evangelizing thousands, and working miracles none of the Apostles were either.
- Jesus and the Apostles were persecuted, beaten, jailed, reputations attacked, falsely accused, and all but John were martyred.
- Even though John wasn't martyred it wasn't for lack of trying. Roman Emperor Domitian threw him in a pot of boiling oil and when he survived, exiled him to Patmos.

Listen to me carefully: **our exaltation takes place at the Second Coming, when we're resurrected from the dead.**

[Rom 8:17 ESV] 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that **we may also be glorified with him** [future tense as following verses show].

- At THAT point we'll be raised and promoted.
- At THAT point we'll be seated on thrones and become priestly kings.
- At THAT point we will help Jesus judge the nations.

Until that wonderful day comes, ***our role is the Cross:***

[Jhn 15:18-20 ESV] 18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Pause and consider Biblical revelations and how they pertain to our status here in this world.

- The Holy Spirit of Jesus is inside us.
- The world hates Jesus.
- It treated Him horribly when He was here in body 2000 years ago.
- It treats Him even worse now.

Christ Jesus is the most famous Person now and for the last 2000 years. He fulfilled the prophecy that His name would be above every other name in the world including that of Lucifer.

Ever since He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, **this world has continued to persecute, rebel, make false accusations about, blame, blaspheme, and misuse Jesus**. He is the most loved and most hated Person ever to have lived.

I've seen a meme circulated through SM that's spot on and I'm going to add to it. ***Do we really believe that we, as Jesus' Body (the Church) are going to be:***

- Treated fairly
- Given promotions
- Made to prosper
- Be set in positions of earthly authority

By a world that hates Jesus with all its heart, soul, mind and strength?

Yes, ***there are some Christian celebrities who've made it big***. How is that working out these days? Some are pastors of mega churches, others are worship leaders who've sold millions of albums, others have been elevated to high levels in government and business. Too many stories and exposes coming out about their fall and all the people affected by the same. **Christian celebrity culture hasn't worked and isn't working**. Neither the US nor any other country is becoming closer to Jesus via Christian celebrities.

Remember the famous scene where Lucifer is trying to tempt Jesus:

[Luk 4:5-7 ESV] 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

Look at verse 6: the world is the devils to give because *it was delivered to him*. Until Jesus returns at His and ours Second Coming, Lucifer runs this world. Paul calls him "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Hold on and let's look at that again: Jesus IS on the throne of God in Heaven right now as King of kings and Lord of lords. **Yet His invasion and hostile takeover or earth hasn't begun yet**, because it's not the appointed time. When the AT finally arrives, Jesus will stand up from His throne, rally the troops (angels and us), mount up on His white horse, and RIDE!

He'll descend from heaven in the flaming fire of vengeance and smite the nations! He is the rod of iron that will break the rebellious nations like potter's vessels! He will completely take over and His everlasting Kingdom here on earth, here in the physical, will be established. He will rule over every nation, tongue, and people. Everyone will bow to Him and call Him "Lord."

Until that day arrives, He remains seated and allows Satan to rule. Remember the last sermon series: Jesus will allow the Antichrist to enter the Temple and call himself the god of this earth! Rev 13 states Antichrist will openly, from a global pulpit, BLASPHEME Jesus and the Church...and Jesus allows it.

Why? Why not strike him down right then and there?

Because it's not time yet.

And that applies to us, the Church, too. It's not our time to be exalted...not yet.

Is it possible that, in our pride, we want it RIGHT NOW?

- Maybe we don't want to wait but we want our best life NOW?
- Do we want it in both this world and the next?
- Are we seeking a world that hates Jesus to love us and give us a promotion?
- Perhaps we want to be exalted and not humbled?

We're still in our first coming. Our resurrection hasn't happened yet. We're not in the time of great promotion and prosperity. We're not in the time of earthly authority. We're not yet at the place where we're sitting on thrones, crowned as kings, and judging the nations.

We're in the time of humility and brokenness. Of being humble and lowly of heart, just like Jesus was in His first coming. He didn't ride into Jerusalem on a white stallion, but on a donkey. Are we greater than our Master?

Back to the first verse I quoted to you today:

[Mat 23:12 ESV] Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

That means we're going to put up with a whole lot in this world... just like Jesus did.

We may never be rich, have a massive platform of thousands on our SM channel or podcast, be elevated to a political position, or what have you.

In this world we might very well be poor, the world may not know or acknowledge us, and we only reach so many people.

- What if our calling is to be humble and lowly of heart?
- What if our role is to continually praise God and thank Him for everything good that's ever done through us?
- To know that it's Him Who did that, got us there, helped that person?

What if in the midst of said humility, **God sees He's got someone He can trust** with miraculous healing ability? A strong prophetic gift? Faith so as to remove mountains?

I repeat to all of us, me included: Jesus and the Apostles moved in the miraculous and converted thousands. **Yet they were treated very badly by the world and never exalted**, even once, to some lofty position of authority or prosperity by the world.

Look what Paul said about himself and any who traveled with him (and he did so more than once):

[2Co 4:7-11 ESV] 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay [our frail human bodies], to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 **We are afflicted in every way**, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not driven to despair; 9 **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 **For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake**, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Then he said this to Timothy:

[2Ti 3:10-13 ESV] 10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 **my persecutions and sufferings** that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra--which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. **12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

In this life, before our resurrection, we walk the path that Jesus did in His first coming: the low road of humility.

[2Ch 7:14 ESV] 14 if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves**, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.