



May 17, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything

Pride → Humility

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18; Mark 9:34-35, 10:45; Philippians 2:5-11; James 4:6-10, Luke 14:11

Spotlight: God resists the proud but lifts the humble.

Summary: Jesus changes everything—including the pride that keeps us from surrendering fully to God. Pride is not simply arrogance; it is self-rule. It is the attitude that says, "I know better, I deserve more, I can handle this alone, I do not need to surrender and bow." **Pride says, "Lord, I don't need you!"** The pride of life makes us trust our achievements, possessions, opinions, and control more than we trust the Lord. The scripture teaches that pride leads to destruction and thanks be to God, Jesus shows us a better way. He was fully God, yet He humbled Himself. He was never weak, passive, or insecure. He was humble and strong. He bowed before the Father, served sinners, endured the cross, and was exalted above every name. In Christ, humility is not humiliation—it is surrender that leads to grace, strength, and life. So, we should choose to kneel before Jesus now rather than stand before Him in judgement later. **Humility says, "Lord, I need you!"**

Almost all people struggle with pride until they surrender everything to Jesus.

Pride can even hide behind religion when we begin to think we are better than someone else because of our belief or faith practices or even the way we dress, how we speak and where we live.

The Bible calls this "the pride of life." The New Living Translation describes it as "pride in our achievements and possessions" in 1 John 2:16. It is the deep temptation to build our identity on what we have, what we do, what people think, and how much control we can keep. But Jesus changes pride to humility. And humility is not weakness. Humility is strength surrendered to God.

I. **Pride says: I am the greatest (Mark 9:34).**

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

James 4:6

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Pride makes us *hard to lead, hard to teach, hard to correct, and impossible to bless.*

- 1. To Repentance**, the prideful say, "I do not need to change."
- 2. To Reconciliation**, the prideful say, "They should come to me first."
- 3. To Worship**, the prideful say, "I will honor God as long as He fits my preferences."
- 4. To Obedience**, the prideful say, "I know what the Bible says, but my situation is different."
- 5. To Surrender and Dependence**, the prideful say, "I can handle this without God's help."

In what areas of your life and in what ways ARE YOU . . . resisting correction? defending or excusing sin instead of confessing it? more concerned with being right than serving others? demanding control instead of trusting God?

II. **Jesus says: Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else (Mark 9:35).**

Philippians 2:5

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians 2 is one of the greatest portraits of humility in all of Scripture. Jesus was fully God, yet He did not cling to His rights. He humbled Himself. He took the position of a servant. He became obedient to death—even death on a cross.

Jesus was not humbled because He lacked power.
Jesus humbled Himself because He was surrendered to the Father.

Mark 10:45

For the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. **Outdo one another** in showing honor.

Humility is not *weakness*. Humility is not *insecurity*. Humility is not *thinking* you are worthless.

Biblical humility is knowing who God is, knowing who you are, and gladly putting yourself under His authority.

Jesus was humble, but He was never weak.

He confronted sin. He rebuked hypocrisy. He endured suffering. He served the broken.

He forgave His enemies. He carried the cross. He obeyed the Father completely. These are feats of humble strength.

Christlike humility accepts:

Serving when no one notices!

Apologizing without making excuses!

Obeying when the cost is great!

Forgiving when pride wants revenge!

Submitting to God's Word when the flesh wants another way!

III. The gospel says: Jesus humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross (Philippians 2:8).

Philippians 2:5

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians 2:3-11

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,
8 he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus shows us humility. James tells us how to practice it.

James 4:7-8

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

The Book of James chapter 4 gives us a pathway:

1. Submit to God -
2. Resist the Devil -
3. Draw Near to God -
4. Cleanse Your Hands and Purify Your Heart -
5. Grieve Over Sin -
6. Bow Before the Lord -

Pray specifically about areas of your life where you need to demonstrate humility . . . marriage, leadership, money, work, church, relationships.

IV. The invitation is: Humble yourself before God. Surrender today (Luke 14:11; James 4:7).

Luke 14:11

For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Being humble is required to walk the path of following Jesus and living in obedience to God and His Word.

God's kingdom operates differently than the world.

The world says, "Promote yourself." **Jesus says, "Humble yourself."**

The world says, "Protect your image." **Jesus says, "Confess your sin."**

The world says, "Step on others." **Jesus says, "Serve others."**

The world says, "Make your name great." **Jesus says, "Every knee will bow to My name."**

Philippians 2 says that because Jesus humbled Himself, God exalted Him and gave Him the name above every name. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

That means everyone will bow.

Will you bow now in willful surrender?

Jesus came down so we could be lifted up.

Jesus became a servant so we could become sons and daughters.

Jesus bore shame so we could receive grace.

Jesus died and rose again so we could have life.

Pride will tell you to wait.

Pride will tell you that you are fine.

Pride will tell you that this message is for someone else.

Pride will tell you to stay in control.

But the Holy Spirit is calling you to *surrender*.

Come close to God, and He will come close to you.

Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Because Jesus changes everything.

Next Steps: "Kneel before Jesus now, or stand before Him later—choose surrender today."

Life Application:

1. Where does pride most often show up in your life— words, attitude, relationships, leadership, opinions, need for control, resistance to correction or resistance to the Holy Spirit?
2. When you are corrected, challenged, or confronted, do you usually become defensive, dismissive, silent, angry, or teachable? What does that reveal about your heart?
3. Where are you tempted to say, "I can handle this on my own," instead of depending on God in prayer, obedience, and surrender?
4. Is there any area of your life where you know what God has said, but you are still trying to negotiate, delay, excuse, or justify your own way?
5. How does the humility of Jesus in Philippians 2 challenge your view of strength, success, leadership, and service?
6. Who in your life needs to see humility from you this week through an apology, a softer answer, a listening ear, forgiveness, or an act of service?
7. What is one practical way you can "humble myself before the Lord" this week according to James 4:6–10?

8. Are you more concerned with protecting your image or becoming more like Jesus? Where is God calling you to let go of reputation, recognition, or control?
9. If every knee will one day bow before Jesus, what would it look like for you to willingly bow before Him today?
10. What specific prideful statement do you need to surrender: "I will sit on my own throne," "I can take care of myself," "I know better," "I deserve more," or "I do not need to change"?

A professional version of ChatGPT was used in part to refine aspects of this Sermon Guide including the Summary and Life Application, the week of May 10-14, 2026. Developed and Edited by Dr. James M. Stewart for First Baptist Church Gulfport, Mississippi. Sermon preached on May 17, 2026.