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FMH Pt 1-HUMILITY & GD'S MERCY(Lk18)

>>>As I return from my summer break
this wk--I want to begin a new series
entitled: **FRM MY HRT TO YUR HRT**

>>>>As I go thru the struggles of life...

*& Gd speaks to my heart...

*SO--I want to speak to your heart

>>>>This summer, I was reading 1 K 3

*Where Gd says to K. Solomon...

*1 K 3:5-"Ask what U wish, & I will
give it to U"

>>>>**& so I thot**—"If the Lrd made me
this offer--wht wld I ask for?"

*& I decided...tht wht I wld ask for
more than anything else...

*Wld be for Gd to hve MERCY on me

*& on the pple I love/pple I care abt

>>SO--"how can I unlock...Gd's mercy...
to its fullest degree...in my life?"

>>>>Well—Gd answers this Q in the B

>>>>& this is wht we want to talk ab tdy

I- PASSAGE LUKE 18

A.Lk 18:10(J)-"Two men went up to the

Temple to pray, one a Pharisee & the

other a tax-collector”

B. V. 11-“The Pharisee stood & prayed:
‘Lrd, I thank Thee tht I am not like
other pple— extortioners, unjust,
adulterers—or even like this tax-
collector. I fast twice a week & I pay
tithes of all I get”

C. Man #1 in J’s story is “A PHARISEE”

1. The Phar’s were “R’s on steroids”

2. At the x of J—they were the most
elite pple in all of Jwsh society

3. But their slf-right’nes/ARROGANCE
was “beyond belief”

4. To mourn ovr their sinfulness/togrieve
ovr their corruption bfore a holy Gd

5. Was an uttrly freign concept to thm

[& THIS BRNGS US TO MAN #2]

D. Mn #2 in J’s stry=“A TAX-COLLECTOR”

1. T-C’s were Jewish men who collected
taxes for the Rmn occupation gov’t

2. They got rich by gouging their
fellow Jews with exorbitant taxes

3. As result, Jws hated thse t-c’s

E. But here’s what I want U to see

1. Not only were these 2 men “polar opposites” when it came to their standing in society
 2. They were also “polar opposites” when it came to their hrts twrds Gd
- F. V. 13-“But the t-c, stood at a distance, & would not even lift his eyes toward heaven. He beat on his breast & just kept saying, ‘God, please! Be merciful to me, a sinner!’” **WOW!!**
1. Hre’s a mn who’s so gripped by his sin/impurity/utter corruption before a holy Gd... tht “he wldn’t even lift his eyes towrd hvn”
 2. Who felt so unwrthy bfre a holy Gd tht “he stood at a distance”
 3. Whose grief ovr his sinfulness bfre a holy Gd caused him so much pain tht he “beat on his breast”
 4. He brot. Gd no good works/pious deeds/religious activity
 5. & he did is humble self bfre Lrd & cry out “Be merciful to me, a snnr”
- G.V. 14a(J)-“I tell U, tht this man (ie, t-c)

went home justified bfre Gd [acquitted
/forgiven/recipient of Gd's mercy]
 & **not** the Pharisee." & **WHY?**

H. V. 14b(J)-"For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who [SAY]humbles hmslf shall be exalted

J. 2 Chr 34:1-Josiah was 8 yrs old whn he began to rule in Judah..& he did what was right in the eyes of the Lrd.

1. V. 8-"Now in his 18th yr...he sent Shaphan to repair the Temple of the Lrd...& while they were doing the work, Hilkiah the priest found a copy of the Bk of the Law of the Lrd givn thru Moses(Torah/5bks)

2. V. 16-"Thn Shaphan brot the book to the kng...& read it bfre the kng

3. V. 19-"& whn the king heard the wrds of the law, he tore his clothes & said to Shaphan, 'Go inquire of the Lrd fr me re: the words of this book we hve found; fr great is the Lrd's wrath tht will poured out on us, bcc our fathers have not kept

the word of the Lrd, to do all tht is written in this book.”

4. V. 22-“So they went to see Hulda the prophetess..& she said to thm, ‘Thus says the Lrd. “Indeed, I will bring upn this place all the curses tht are written in the book, which was read before the king.”

5.V.26-“But-to the king of Judah, who sent U to me, thus says the Lord: ‘Bc yur hrt was penitent, & U[SAY] **humbled** yurself bfore Gd...yea, bec U [SAY] **humbled** yurslf bfre Me, & tore yur clothes & wept before Me...I will gather U to yur grave in peace, & yur eyes shall not see the evil I will bring agst this place & its pple. **[MERCY!]**

6.Hw did Josiah unleash mrcy of Gd?

7.Same way T-C did [SAY]**Humility!**

K.2 Chr 12:1-“Whn the rule of Rehoboam (Sol’s son) was established & strong, he forsook the Lrd. So in the 5th yr of his reign, bec he had been unfaithful

to the Lrd, Shishak, king of Eg, came agst Jeru w/an unnumberable force.”

1.V. 5-“Then Shemiah the prophet came to Rehoboam & the princes of Judah who were gatherd tgethr, & said, ‘Thus says the Lrd, ‘U abandoned Me, so now I hve abandoned U into Shishak’s hand

2. V. 6-“Thn the princes & the king **[SAY] humbled** themselves & said, ‘Indeed, the Lord is right’”

3.V. 7-“& whn the Lrd saw tht they had **[SAY]humbled** thmslvs, the wrd of the Lrd came to Shemiah sayng, ‘Bc they hve**[SAY]humbled** thmslves, I will not destroy them”

4.Hw did Reho unleash mrcy of Gd?

5.Same way T-C did! **[SAY] Humility!**

L. In fact—Gd so treasures humility—tht He even honors it...frm **EVIL PPLE!**

M. 1 K 21:25-“For there was **no one** who sold himself to do wht was evil in the Lrd’s sight like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited.”

- 1.V. 20-“Then Ahab said to Elijah,
 ‘Have U found me, O my enemy?’
 & Elijah said, ‘I hve found U, bec
 U hve sold yourself to do what is
 evil in the Lrd’s sight. So now the
 Lrd says), “I will bring evil upon U
- 2.V. 21-“I will utterly sweep U away &
 will cut off frm Ahab evry male...
 & I will make yur house desolate
 ...bec of the anger to which U hve
 provoked me.”
- 3.V.27-“& whn Ahab heard thse wrds,
 he tore his clothes, & put on sckclth,
 & fasted, & lay in sackcloth
4. V. 28-“& the word of the Lrd came
 to Elijah saying, ‘Do U see hw Ahab
 has [SAY]**humbled** himself before
 Me? Bec he has [SAY] **humbled**
 himself before Me, I will not bring
 this evil upon his house in his days
- 6.Hw did Ahab unleash mrcy of Gd?
- 7.The same way T-C did! **Humility!**

II- SO WHAT?

A. As I said at beginning of this msg...

1. Without a doubt...the thing I need **MOST** frm Gd="I need **MERCY**"
- B. & do I unlock Gd's mercy in my life?
- C. & in the lives of my c'ren/g-crn/mrrge
- D. Well—I do it the same way Ahab did it
Rehoboam/Josiah? Tax-coll'tr did it
- E. I do it by **HUMILITY**
 1. By coming before an all holy Gd...
 2. & by dropping to my knees...
 - 3.& by crying out: "Lord--I'm here to
humble myself before U"
*To **grieve** ovr my **impurity**
*To **mourn** ovr my **sin**
*To **weep** ovr my **lukewarmness**
*& to **beat** on my breast & beg U "to
hve **mercy** on me, a sinner"
- F. Evry great mn/wmn of Gd has had this
this kind of **humility**...
 - 1.Ptr: "Depart frm me Lrd—fr I am a
sinful man" (Lk 5:8)
 - 2.Dvd: "I knw my transgressions &
my sin is ever before me"(Ps 51:3)
 - 3.Is: "Woe is me—For I am a man of
unclean lips" (Is 6:5)

4.St. Francis of Assisi: “Nowhere is there a more wretched, more miserable creature than I”

5.AP:“I am the chiefest of sinners(1T1:15)
L.& as we saw tdy-if this kind of humility is so powerful before God...

1. That it even unleashes Gd's mercy on evil people...like AHAB

2.Thn jst think what kinda mercy it will unleash on us—as Gd's c'mn in JC

CONCLUSION--CONFESSION

>>>I'm a horribly self-destructive man—
& I desperately need Gd's mercy in my personal life

>>>>I'm a selfish man--& I desperately need Gd's mercy in my marriage

>>>I have a son in crisis who desperately needs Gd's mercy

>>I have a seriously-disabled/medically-fragile dau—who desperately needs..

>>>>I have g'ern who're struggling & who desperately need Gd's mercy

>>I have a sp enemy who is trying to end

my ministry career in disgrace--&
bring disgrace to Lrd's name--& I
desperately need Gd's mercy

>>>>I say sinful things/think/do—all of
which offend Gd & hurt other pple--
& I desperately need Gd's mercy

>I need Gd's mercy—everyday—all the x

>>>Can anybdy relate to wht U'm saying

>>>& so—I'm going to come down & get
on my knees & humble self bfre Lord
*& beg fr His mercy on me, a sinner
*& on my c'ren/g'ren/mrrge/daughttr

>>>>& I want to invite U to join me
*Rght here-dwn front-at all campuses
*No matter hw far U are away—**WAIT**

>>>>U come now