



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 35: Humble Under His Mighty Hand

1 Peter 5:5–6 *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Peter echoes the same truth James gave us yesterday: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”, but he adds two images that expand it. He turns our reverence outward toward other people. This is the center point of our final segment: reverence for God is meant to flow into how we treat one another.

The first image is clothing. “Clothe yourselves... with humility.” The Greek word Peter chooses, *enkomboomai*, refers to tying on a servant’s apron, the humble garment a slave would fasten over his clothes before doing lowly or dirty work. Many scholars believe Peter is remembering the night Jesus tied a towel around His waist and washed the disciples’ feet. Peter had protested that night; now, decades later, he tells us to put on that same apron of humility every day, toward one another. Reverence before God is best displayed when we bend down to serve the person next to us.

The second image is God’s “mighty hand.” “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.” That hand is powerful enough to crush any rebel, yet Peter presents it not as a threat but as a place of safety. To humble yourself under that hand is to place yourself where it can shelter, shape, and in time lift you: “that at the proper time he may exalt you.” The humble aren’t diminished, discarded or forgotten about under God’s hand; they’re protected by it, and eventually raised by it; albeit in His timing, not ours.

This is where reverence and holiness reach into our everyday relationships. It is a strange but common duplicity to be very “reverent” toward God on Sunday and quietly arrogant toward people on Monday. To ‘humbly’ bow before the Almighty and then look down on His image-bearers. Peter is warning against

this hypocrisy. The true test of whether we have bowed before God is whether we will tie on an apron for one another. Genuine reverence humbles us not only vertically, before God, but horizontally, before people; because we have seen our own unworthiness clearly enough to stop lording it over anyone else. So put on an apron today. Let your reverence for the holiness of God make you the humblest, most serving person in every room you enter.

TAKE AWAY

It is duplicit to be reverent toward God but arrogant toward people. The real test of whether you have bowed before God is seen in your attitude toward serving others.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to clothe you in humility today, both under His mighty hand and in genuine, serving lowliness toward the people around you.