

The preacher sat down and wrote a very good and impressive sermon on being humble. Then he put it away in a file. His secretary asked him why he was not going to preach it this Sunday. The preacher replied, because it is so good, I want to wait for a really big occasion, so I can impress a lot of people.
A lady came to the pastor's office and said pastor; I think I am guilty of the sin of vanity. Why do you think that he asked? Well every morning I sit in front of my mirror & brush my hair & tell myself how beautiful I am. Oh no sister, that's not a sin, it is just a mistake
Why is it hard to be humble? Because being humble goes against our human nature. Every time our human nature comes around, we will have problems. It is a part of our human nature to strive to be the best; to have the most & to try to acquire even more. We take pride in having more than any one else. Now a little pride is necessary. It helps us do our best. It pushes us to be the best. It also brings calamity upon us when it takes over our thoughts and our actions. Proverbs 16:18 says "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:19 says "Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Pride is contagious. Pride brings down many winners. Some people get puffed up and full of pride over very small things.

When Cain and Able were little, they asked Adam why did not live in the Garden of Eden anymore. Adam answered because boys, your mother ate us out of house and home. Not long after that Adam prayed to God and told Him it was nice to have a home and a family but he was missing the fellowship he and God shared in the Garden. Adam told God he was having difficulty remembering God's love for him. God said alright, I will create a new animal that will remind you of my love for you. So God did. He created a cute, cuddly, friendly critter with a tail and big brown eyes and soft fur. He told Adam to name his new creation, but Adam replied that he was fresh out of names. So God said alright, I'll name him. Since this animal will always be there for you, always love you as you are, and accept you as you are, I will name him dog, because he is a reflection of My love, my acceptance of you and a constant presence in your life. Adam was comforted, the dog wagged his tail, and God was pleased.

Later, Adam's Guardian Angel approached God & told Him that Adam is puffed up with pride because the dog He gave Adam. The dog obeys his every command, loves him unconditionally, and is very devoted and loyal to him. Adam began to feel that he somehow deserved this adoration and attention. God said alright, I fix that. So God created another new animal; one that would not obey Adam or show him any affection. This animal God named cat. When Adam looked into the cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the Supreme Being, God was. From the cat Adam once again learned humility. God was pleased, Adam was improved, dog wagged his tail & cat couldn't care less.

Jonathan Edwards once said the best protection one can have from the devil and his schemes is a humble heart. Are we humble this morning?

Humility is not a human trait but it is a Christian trait. So is keeping the Sabbath holy and sharing what we have. Do we have these traits? Do we want these traits?

As we contemplate these questions, let us look to our LORD in prayer. (Pray)

Luke begins this text by telling us that Jesus has accepted a dinner invitation to the home of a leading Pharisee. Jesus always tried to help people; so that means He met them where they were. This sometimes required Him to eat with people who hated Him. Jesus ate with all sinners, those with bad reputations like harlots and tax collectors, who wanted to learn from him; as well as those of good reputation, like the Pharisees, who wanted to harm him. Luke says they watched him closely. Why? So they could get him into trouble. But because Jesus knows each person's heart, he was aware of their deceit. Jesus ate with his enemies; would we do that? Today, Jesus still meets people where they are; do we?

Soon a man who had dropsy came to Jesus. Dropsy is a condition in which one's body retains water, causing one's arms and or legs to swell. Jesus asked the lawyers and the Pharisees a question. He asked if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath. They answered him not a word and Jesus healed the man. This is the 2nd time Luke tells us that Jesus asked the Pharisees if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath. Back in Luke 6:9 Jesus asks "is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it." They did not answer him there either; so He healed the man who had a withered hand.

Since they did not answer Him, Jesus answered His question for them; He said "which of you having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath Day?" God established the Sabbath day so that people could rest and worship Him. God began the Sabbath day in Genesis by creating the world in 6 days and resting on the 7th. Then in Exodus 20:8 He makes it the 4th commandment. "Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy". Jesus kept the Sabbath day holy by helping people. He healed them! How much more holy can a day be than to see and praise the awesome power of God. Do we remember to keep the Sabbath Day holy? What does it mean to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy?

The lawyers and the Pharisees said nothing. That is all they could say because if they told the truth, they would have to agree with Jesus. And that would cause them problems because the lawyers and the Pharisees had put a lot of man made rules into the law. They poured over them studying them defining them down to the minutest detail so that no one could break them accidentally. But all their scrutiny & strict interpretations emphasized a callous external adherence to the law instead of cultivating an internal attitude of submission to God. Perfect obedience to the law became a source of pride rather than an outward expression of love towards God & man. The Jewish leaders were more concerned about the letter of the law than the spirit of the law. Jesus always upheld the spirit of the law. God never prohibits us from doing good. He wants us to do good; it shows the world that we are His. He is good, therefore we, His reflection, need to be good. Are we?

To the lawyers and the Pharisees, no work meant no work, but like everyone else, they did what had to be done. You could not leave your donkey or ox in a pit all day. They had to be pulled out as soon as possible. Animals still had to be fed and watered; cows still needed to be milked. If showing mercy to animals was deemed necessary, isn't it even more necessary to show mercy to humans? Isn't it ironic that those who were supposed to be the spiritual leaders of the people showed more love and concern for the animals than for their fellow man? They saw no harm in rescuing an animal on the Sabbath Day, but they wanted to stop Jesus from rescuing humans. R we like that? They answered nothing because they could not answer truthfully and still be a witness against Jesus.

How do we answer the question is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath? Just how do we keep the Sabbath day holy? In today's modern hustle and bustle world, so many things are open around the clock; not many even stop for holidays. How do we keep Sunday's special? How do we remember to honor God? How do we keep the Sabbath holy?

Obviously, church attendance is one way to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy; but church attendance is falling in America. Too many people have to work on Sunday's. Now if you have to work, you have to work. God expects us to provide for our families, but is that the best job for you and your family? Sunday is the only day off for some, so they sleep in; they use it for chores around the house, and running errands. Perhaps they use it to relax on the golf course or at the lake. We need time away from our jobs and the every day stress of life. God knows this, which is why He commanded us to have a day of rest. We all need a Sabbath day each week; a day away from work and focused on God. God commands us to not only tithe our money to Him, but our time as well. Does God get 10% of our time?

Can we really take time off from God? Where is it we can go to be away from God?

Psalm 139:7 "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?" Everywhere we go, God is. All we have to do is recognize that fact and praise him for it. He said he'd never leave us nor forsake us. He is always with us, the question is, are we always with Him?

Paul tells us in Colossians 3:17 "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Do we do everything that we do in the name of Jesus? Do we do all for his glory? If we did, then no matter what we are doing, rather we are working or playing, we will bring Him glory and honor; whether it is the Sabbath or not. Do we do our jobs like Jesus himself was our boss? Do we find ways to bring God glory through the games play and hobbies we have? Do we set priorities for living a Christian life? Is worshipping God on the Sabbath one of our priorities? Do we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy?

Next Jesus tells a parable about humbling ourselves. He warns us not to set in the best place because it is possible that the host might bring another person to be seated in that place and we would be shamed. Instead he tells us to sit in the lowest place. That way the host might move us up to a higher spot and we would be honored instead of shamed.

Christians need to focus on being humble. We represent Jesus; we want to present a good picture of him. He was humble, even though he was God in the flesh. Are we humble?

Proverbs 25:6-7 "Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great; for it is better that he say to you, "come up here" than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen." Are we humble?

Service is more important to God than status. Humble people serve God. They recognize that he gave them gifts to use for his glory and they are not only willing to use those gifts for him, they

are willing to give him the glory due Him. True humility is not putting our selves down, it is lifting Christ up. Humble people only compare themselves to Christ. He is our example to follow; he is our leader to serve. We are to try to be like him.

Are we like Him? Are we serving Jesus? R we humble?

Then Jesus talks about the kind of people we should invite over for dinner. He tells us not to just invite those who can some day invite us over for a meal; no he says to invite those who can not give us a return invitation.

He says inviting the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind to dinner is storing our treasures in heaven. By doing good deeds, humble people store their treasures in heaven. Jesus says that where your treasure is, there your heart is also, so where are we storing our treasure? Who do we invite for dinner? Why do we invite them? Jesus is not telling us to no longer invite our friends and family over, he is just reminding us to make sure that we remember to help those who need helping as well. Because true hospitality and service is given to those who need it, not to those who can repay it.

Christians must have a loving concern for the less fortunate like Jesus did. God opened his kingdom to any who would come. R we that receptive/ do we exclude certain people? Do we share God's blessing with those who can't return our hospitality? Jesus said as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me. Do we look at helping people as if we were helping Jesus? Are we open and generous with our hospitality? Are we willing to share Jesus with everyone?

Jesus is warning us that his kingdom has no place for pride, haughtiness, selfishness, self centeredness, or neglect of our fellow man. These characteristics may be common to man, but they should not be found among Christians. Being a disciple of Christ means that we need to be humble, loving and caring. Living a Christian life requires us to have a servant's heart. A servant's heart is humble, committed, and obedient.

Are we humble, obedient, committed servants to Jesus Christ?

Our Christian walk is a life long journey. We are to pattern ourselves after Jesus and strive each day to be like Him. He was and is loving, caring, and humble. Are we?

One reason why Dwhite Moody was so successful for God was because he was a very humble man. He once said you can always tell when a man is a great way from God-when he is always talking about himself, how good he is. What does our speech reveal about us? Abraham Lincoln was also a very humble man. Someone once told him that the welfare of the nation depended

upon him and God, to which Lincoln replied, you're half right. Abraham Lincoln once said "Without divine assistance I cannot succeed. With it I can not fail." Humility is knowing that our strength lies in and comes from God.

It is all him. It is all him working through us, it is not we ourselves. Are we humble?

Remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy will help us stay humble. Voltaire, the French author who died in 1778, predicted that within 100 years of his life Christianity would be nothing more than history. He admitted though, that for this to happen, the world would first have to get rid of Sunday. He said there is no hope of destroying Christianity as long as its Sabbath is kept as a sacred day. Would he be happy with today's thoughts about the Sabbath? D.L.Moody once said "You show me a nation that has given up the Sabbath, and I will show you a nation that has got the seed of decay." Does America have the seed of decay? Do we really remember the Sabbath and keep it holy? Or is Sunday just another day to us? God loves us and provides for us. He provided a day of rest not just for our bodies, but for our souls as well. We need to rest after a hard week of work. Spending the day with God will give us peace in our spirit. Spending time with God, resting in Him, can turn our daily difficulties into opportunities to serve Him with a fresh outlook and bear spiritual fruit. How is our walk with God this morning? Are we humbly walking with him? Do we have the heart of an obedient servant? Do we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy? Amen! Let's pray!