



CHURCH @ HOME

The Way Up Is Down (1)

James 4:10 (Amp)

Humble yourselves (feeling very insignificant) in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you (He will lift you up and make your lives significant)

I Peter 5:6 (Amp)

Therefore humble yourselves (demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation) under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you

Matthew 21:4-5

4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon a donkey, and a colt the foal of a donkey.

1. MEEK and LOWLY not weak and poor...

- a. Jesus came to the earth as meek and lowly not weak and poor... **Zechariah 9:9...**
- b. **Meekness** is not the same as **weakness**...
- c. Meekness is often viewed as weak, poor, fragile, feeble, pitiful, destitute...
- d. God regards meekness as a vessel of strength... **Proverbs 22:4...**

2. Where there is strife there is no meekness... **Philippians 2:3...**

- a. Strife is "friction created by two or more people trying to occupy one thing"...
- b. Meekness is a mindset of humility, which chooses to put others first...
- c. The meek choose to be lowly in mind, thought, and action, thereby esteeming others above themselves... **Romans 12:3...**
- d. **Meekness is absent where strife is present**, because strife is created by a "me-first" attitude...
- e. Choosing others first—to esteem others above yourself eliminates strife...

3. Imitate Christ's Humility...

- a. Jesus had an attitude and a mindset of humility. He gave up His right to glory in Himself...
- b. We must become imitators of Christ by **putting on the mind of Christ...Philippians 2:5-8...**
- c. Jesus gave God all of the credit. In exchange, God Glorified Jesus and blessed Him...**Philippians 2:9-11...**
- d. The mind of Christ is the mind that always chooses to give God all of the glory...

4. Choose the BLESSING not the CREDIT...**Luke 14:11...**

- a. You can take the credit or you can take the blessing...
- b. People with a servant's heart refuse to take the credit...
- c. Taking the credit is to take Gods glory upon yourself...**Acts 12:21-23...**
- d. Taking the credit will erase the blessing...
- e. Refusing to take the credit always results in the blessing...**Matthew 5:5...**

Suggestions for Open Discussion

1. *Why in your opinion is meekness usually equated with weakness? JESUS was a meek man. Discuss ways in which He demonstrated strength in His life and ministry...*
2. *What immediate steps should a Christian take to eliminate strife from their relationships? Why is this usually a very challenging exercise?*
3. *Suggest practical ways a believer can demonstrate HUMILITY. Name a few obvious indicators of PRIDE in any individual...*
4. *Why are we often tempted to take the credit in life's situations? Why in your opinion is it impossible to take the credit and enjoy God's blessings at the same time?*