

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Chapter 14 – Vertical: Repentance versus Pride

Park Plaza Brookside * Fireside Room

March 6, 2016

Premumbles: Note to Clint

- Never assign a Bible lesson about humility to a Lawyer
- Today's lesson is taught under protest and duress
- God has a sense of humor!
- 😊

History of Humility

- Christian humility upended the world
- “Humility” (*humilitas* in Latin; *tapeinos* in Greek) was not a virtue in Graeco-Roman ethics.
- “Humility” meant “crushed” or “debased.” It was associated with failure and shame.
- In its place was *philotimia*, “the love of honor.” Aristotle had insisted that “honor” and “reputation” are among the pleasantest things one could contemplate and attain for oneself. In other words, if it’s true, then it’s not bragging.
- “Humility” before an equal or lessor was morally suspect.
- <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2011/10/27/3349673.htm>

Repentance vs. Pride

- The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)
- ⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'
- ¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'
- ¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Pride = Self-Deception

- "For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself." (Galatians 6:3)

Pride vs. Humility

- Pride assumes self-sufficiency and boasts of self-righteousness.
- This is my life. I'm in control. I should get what I want and get the credit for what I do.
- I know better than they do. I am more important than they are. I deserve better than what they get.
- Mine is the kingdom, mine is the power, and mine is the glory.
- We get into trouble anytime we overlook the fact that our lives are a gift from God and we are undeserving of the mercy, grace and blessings He has given us. Even our accomplishments come only as a result of abilities He's given us.

Nick Vujicic



- Born without any arms & legs
- Married, father of 2
- Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Vujicic
- How Nick Vujicic triumphed against all odds
<https://youtu.be/YwpiZTp0N9k>

Nick Vujicic



Pride vs. Humility

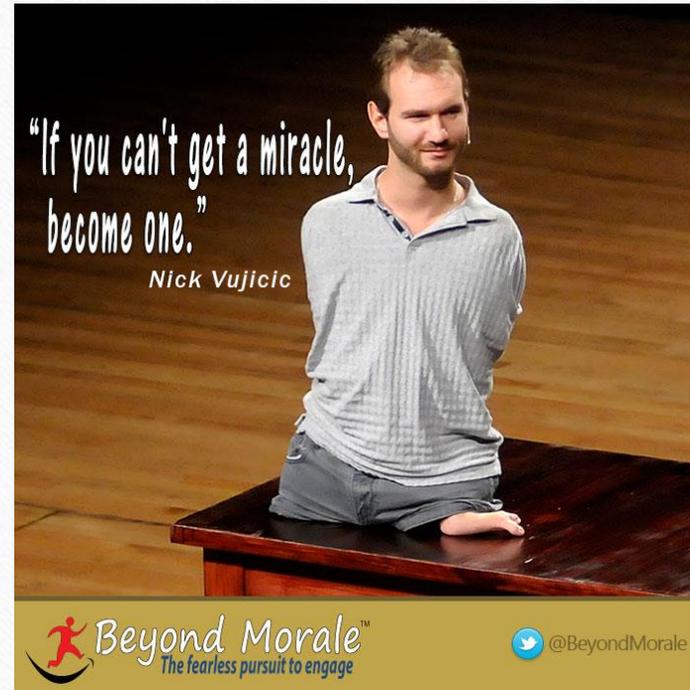
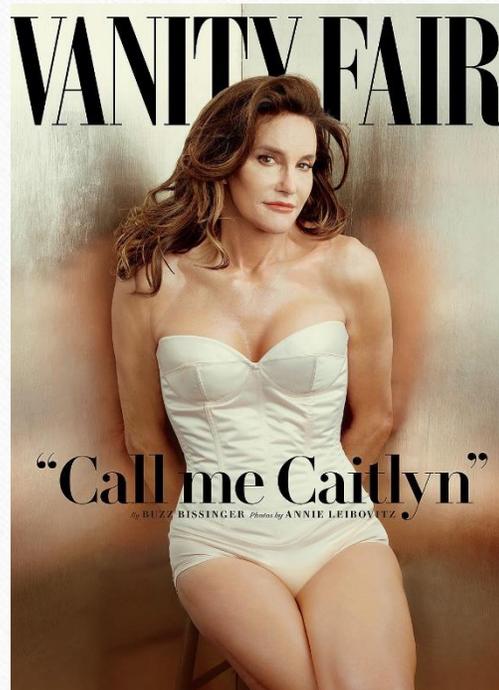
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Bruce Jenner



- Winner of 1976 Olympic Decathlon in Montreal, Canada
- Married 3 times, father of 6 children
- Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caitlyn_Jenner

Pride vs. Humility



Pride vs. Humility

"I'm good." vs. "No, thank-you."

Biblical Examples of Pride & Humility

5. Nebuchadnezzar – Humbled by God (Daniel 4)
4. Naaman – Healed of Leprosy by dipping in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5)
3. Peter – Objected to Jesus washing his feet. (Matthew 26:14-29; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:1-17) *[See the next slide.]*
2. Zacchaeus the Tax Collector – Climbed a tree to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)
1. Jesus – Died on a Cross for YOU!

Abba John the Dwarf

- Some old men were entertaining themselves at *Scetis* by having a meal together; amongst them was Abba John. A venerable priest got up to offer drink, but nobody accepted any from him, except John the Dwarf. They were surprised and said to him, ‘How is it that you, the youngest, dared to let yourself be served by the priest?’ Then he said to them, ‘When I get up to offer drink, I am glad when everyone accepts it, since I am receiving my reward; that is the reason, then, that I accepted it, so that he also might gain his reward and not be grieved by seeing that no-one would accept anything from him.’ When they heard this, they were all filled with wonder and edification at his discretion.
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Dwarf

General George Washington



At the end of the Revolutionary War, many people in America and Europe thought Washington would retain the reins of power to become the leader of the new nation, or even king. When told by the American artist Benjamin West that Washington was going to resign, King George III of England said "If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

Kevin Durant – OKC Thunder



"But I always kind of pinch myself and say that any day this can be gone. In the Bible, (it says) the Lord exalts humility and that's one thing I try to be all the time—when I'm talking in front of people or when people tell me I'm great, I (remind myself that I) can always be better. I always work on what I have now. I've just got to be thankful to the Lord for what the gifts He's given me. My gift back to Him is to always be humble and to always try to work as hard as I can. I've got to continue to be that way. I know that if I try to get a big head, my mom is going to do a great job of bringing me back down to size. I have the best of both worlds with the coaches we have here and my parents and my family doing it back at home. I'm in pretty good hands."

Quotes - Humility

- “I give all the glory to God. It's kind of a win-win situation. The glory goes up to him, and the blessings fall down on me.”

Gabby Douglas – Professional Gymnast and 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist

Quotes - Humility

- “Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.”

John Wooden, Former Basketball Coach and College Basketball Player

Captain “Sully” Sullenberger

- After successfully piloting Flight 1549 to safety in the Hudson River, saving more than 150 passengers in the process, Captain Sully exemplified humility as few could. In an interview after the crash, he was modest about his acts of courage, attributing his poise to his training over the years.
- “One way of looking at this might be that for 42 years,” he said. “I’ve been making small, regular deposits in this bank of experience, education and training. And on January 15 the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal.”

Quotes - Humility

- “True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”
— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Quotes - Humility

- “The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.”
— Winston S. Churchill

Quotes - Humility

- “There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.”

— Ernest Hemingway

Quotes - Humility

- “I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.”

— Abraham Lincoln

Quotes - Humility

- “I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.”

— Winston Churchill

Quotes – Humility

- “But enough about me, let's talk about you. What do you think of me?”
— Bette Midler in *Beaches*

Quotes - Humility

- “I used to think that God’s gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the more easily we should reach them. I find now that God’s gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that is not a question of growing taller, but of stooping lower and that we have to go down, always down to get His best ones.”

– FB Meyer

Quotes - Humility

- “It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.”

– Saint Augustine

Quotes - Humility

- “‘Thank you’ is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding.”

– Alice Walker

Quotes - Humility

- “Revenge, lust, ambition, pride, and self-will are too often exalted as the gods of man's idolatry; while holiness, peace, contentment, and humility are viewed as unworthy of a serious thought.”

– Charles Spurgeon

Quotes - Humility

- “Sense shines with a double luster when it is set in humility. An able yet humble man is a jewel worth a kingdom.”

– William Penn

Quotes - Humility

- “Too many people spend money they earned ... to buy things they don’t want ... to impress people that they don’t like.”
— Will Rogers

Quotes - Humility

- “Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.”

— Ann Landers

Quotes - Humility

- “Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you.”

— Andrew Murray, *Humility*

Quotes - Humility

- “We are rarely proud when we are alone.”

— Voltaire

Quotes - Humility

- “Humility is nothing but truth, and pride is nothing but lying.”
— St. Vincent de Paul

Quotes - Humility

- “My list of virtues continued at first but twelve; but a Quaker friend having kindly informed me that I was generally thought proud, that my pride showed itself frequently in conversation, that I was not content with being in the right when discussing any point, but was overbearing and rather insolent, of which he convinced me by mentioning several instances, I determined endeavoring to cure myself, if I could, of this vice or folly among the rest, and I added Humility to my list, giving an extensive meaning to the word.”

— Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

Quotes - Humility

- “In reality, there is, perhaps, no one of our natural passions so hard to subdue as pride. Disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive, and will every now and then peep out and show itself; you will see it, perhaps, often in this history; for, even if I could conceive that I had compleatly overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility.”

— Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

Quotes - Humility

- “Life is a long lesson in humility.”
— J.M. Barrie, *The Little Minister*

Quotes - Humility

- “I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men.”

— Lao Tzu

Quotes - Humility

- “Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble.”

— Andrew Murray

Bonus Quote - Prayer

- “The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”

– FB Meyer

Continue to Pray for Us!



- Clint Hill
- Chris Mayfield
- Reece Morrel Jr.

Closing Prayer

Lord, too often and in too many ways we've put ourselves first – above our loyalty to You, above our recognition of sin, above our need for repentance, and above our humble reliance on You for everything. But where we've worked so hard to build ourselves up, we see now we've actually been tearing away at what our relationship with You can be. Today, Lord, we come to You with nothing but gratitude, asking You to purge us of pride and help us see things as they really are. You first. You always.