

SERVANTHOOD – The Humility of a Servant

Mark 10:42-45 KJV But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest shall be servant of all.

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Genesis 37:2-11 KJV These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: **and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.**

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

I want to take a good look at Joseph in this week's lesson, as a study in...***The Humility of a Servant***

[JUST IN CASE WE DON'T MAKE IT BACK TO THIS PARTICULAR POINT I WANT TO MENTION RIGHT HERE...WE ALL NEED TO LEARN **THIS** PRINCIPLE! ...

Deuteronomy 33:24 KJV And of Asher he said, ***Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.***]

WE NEED TO ASK THE LORD TO HELP US LEARN HOW TO WALK IN ACCEPTABLE AREAS WITH OUR BRETHREN...THAT DOESN'T MEAN COMPROMISE...OR LETTING ANYTHING DOWN! BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO LORD ANYTHING OVER OUR BRETHREN EITHER! It took Joseph A LONG TIME AND A LOT OF PAIN AND PROCESS to learn that one

Genesis 37:2 "...and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report."

Joseph was indeed blessed of God...no doubt about that...**BUT; Joseph had some pride**

issues...

Many times in our pride we bring a bad report of our brothers to the Father...(I'm glad I'm so wonderful...and even if no one else serves you, Lord, I will...I, I, I, me, me, me...)

He resisted temptations and walked worthily...but he had some pride problems!

Genesis 39:9 *There is none greater in this house than I*; neither hath he kept back any thing **from me** but thee, because thou *art* his wife: **how then can I do** this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Look at the personal pronouns here!

Who's getting the honor and praise out of this anyway?

He had a bad, pride problem....

God blessed him and used him...He **will** use you as much as he can...He allowed him to interpret dreams...

First he had the dreams back under Jacob...then, in the prison house let's look...

What a time to speak a word for the God of Israel, to testify of the greatness of Jehovah! **An evangelist's dream come true**...God has worked in the supernatural to give him the interpretation of these dreams and what is he going to say now?

Genesis 40:14-15 KJV But **think on me** when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee, **unto me**, and **make mention of me** unto Pharaoh, and **bring me out** of this house:

15 For **indeed I was stolen away** out of the land of the Hebrews: and **here also have I done nothing** that they should **put me** into the dungeon.

Joe still didn't understand what God was trying to do in his life in the area of character development...what was God's answer to Joe's situation? **2 more years in the prison house!**

Genesis 41:16 KJV And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, **It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace**

When we study about spiritual warfare and the armor of the spirit...one of the greatest weapons we have at our disposal is the weapon of HUMILITY.

Luke 22:26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

Genuine Humility -- Read and Review briefly

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 KJV And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1. Paul wanted them to be impressed, not with his ability, but with God's power. We read that over and over again.
 - a. When people follow image-conscious leaders, the leader is exalted.
 - b. When people follow leaders with a servant's heart, the Lord Jesus is exalted.
 1. These people speak of God's person, power, work, will, name, purpose...all for God's glory.
 2. **Two revealing tests of humility are:**

- a. **A non-defensive spirit when confronted** – this reveals a willingness to be accountable. (Nothing to prove, nothing to lose)
- b. **An authentic desire to help others** – a sensitive, spontaneous awareness of the needs of others.
 - A true servant stays in touch with the struggles that others experience.
 - There is that humility of mind that continually looks for ways to serve and to give.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 KJV But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do engender strifes.

24 And ***the servant of the Lord must not strive***; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

1 Peter 5:1-10 KJV The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: **for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**

6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.

Spiritual gifting – God has given you special abilities called spiritual gifts to give you the ability to minister to your brothers and sisters within the Body of Christ, and to reach out to a lost world with the love of Jesus Christ.

Heart - God gave you a unique passion for particular activities, subjects and circumstances. He gave you a Heart for the things you feel deeply about to help define how and where He wants you to serve Him.

Abilities - You have Abilities, given to you before you accepted Christ, that God can use in specific ways to assist you in your ministry.

Personality - God needs a Personality in ministry that's exactly like yours! He wants to use you whether you're an extrovert or an introvert; whether you enjoy routine or variety.

Experiences - God has placed a multitude of Experiences in your life to help mold you for ministry. He can use the experiences in your background to help heal the hurts of others in your church and your community.

