

# Hallelujah Anyway, Part 9

Pastor Steve Berger May 31, 2015

## Review of pride

*Last week we mentioned humility, but couldn't start without first talking about pride. The History, God's Hatred, Horror of it.*

"...pride, self-exaltation, is the gate and the birth, and the curse of hell"<sup>1</sup> Andrew Murray

"At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend."<sup>2</sup> John Stott

When asked what the three most important aspects of following Jesus, St. Augustine replied, "Humility, humility, humility."<sup>3</sup> Augustine

- ultimately, the humility of Jesus is a non-negotiable character trait for us

## Humility in the life of Jesus

### Philippians 2:1-4

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- **appeal for like-mindedness** — encouragement, comfort, fellowship, affection, mercy
- **instruction against selfishness** — selfish ambition, conceit, vain glory
- **encouragement toward humility** — esteeming others better than yourself, look out for interests of others

**While appealing to us, and encouraging our like-mindedness, Paul is outlining a portrait of Christ's life and example of humility**

### Philippians 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to point of death, even the death of the cross.

## Five facets of Jesus' humility

### I. As God, didn't consider it robbery to be equal with God...

- Jesus didn't cling to the advantages of His status, His own divine privileges, power, prerogatives, prestige
- there was no, "I'm God, I've got rights, privilege, and power to do whatever I want on earth."

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Murray, *The Wisdom of Andrew Murray, Volume 1*, (Radford, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008), 9

<sup>2</sup> C. J. Mahaney, *Humility: True Greatness*, (Colorado Springs, CO, Multnomah Books, 2008)

<sup>3</sup> Augustinus, *The Works of Saint Augustine*, (New York, New York, New City Press, 2003), 104

**Jesus lived a humble life.**  
**Humility —**  
**entirely trusting and depending on God, in every aspect of life,**  
**knowing our place as creation and submitting to God as Creator**

***So important...**“Who He was” as God in human flesh, didn’t get in the way of Him depending on and submitting to the Father in every aspect of His life on earth.*

**John 5:19,30**

Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

***Paul learned the lesson** of not clinging to past prestige, pedigree, power...*

**Philippians 3:4-8**

...though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

***Important...**Paul abandoned prestige, pedigree, power of past to gain Christ. He counted those things as loss and rubbish compared to knowing Jesus. He didn’t try to use “who he was” to be somebody in the Kingdom of God, Paul realized that attitude and those things were actually hindrances to him knowing Jesus.*

**2. Jesus made Himself of no reputation, He emptied Himself...**

- **there was no** — “do you know Who I am?”
- **there was** — “don’t tell anyone what I just did”
- **repeatedly** — can’t do by myself, not My will, not My doctrine, not My words, not seeking My own glory, not operating in own authority, not here because of self

**REMEMBER THIS:**

**Jesus resigned from doing His own anything, for His own anything.**  
**Jesus became nothing, so God could be everything in and through Him!**

**3. He took the form of a bondservant —a slave—though He was the form of God**

***Definition of bondservant:** “I willingly, voluntarily, surrender my rights to my life, out of love for my Master and His house, I am His servant forever, to do His will, no matter what that costs me.”*

**Jesus went from God to man, man to slave,**  
**where He becomes servant of man!**

“The Lord lowered Himself twice, first in emptying Himself in His deity, and then in humbling Himself in His humanity.”<sup>4</sup> Watchman Nee

“Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature.”<sup>5</sup> Andrew Murray

<sup>4</sup> Watchman Nee, *Authority and Submission*, (Anaheim, California: Living Stream Ministry, 1988), 41

<sup>5</sup> Andrew Murray, *The Wisdom of Andrew Murray, Volume 1*, (Radford, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008), 14

## Christ as bonds slave

### Matthew 20: 25-28

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

### Serious contrast

- Gentiles cling to power, privilege and prestige, leading by lording
- "yet it shall not be so among you"
- want to be great — be a servant; want to be first — be a slave; want to imitate and follow Jesus — serve and give your life for others
- no substitute for that

"How do you know if you're a servant? There's a very simple test: You'll know if you're a servant by how you react when people treat you like one."<sup>6</sup> Jon Courson

## 4. Jesus humbled Himself

- His choice, an act of His will, to cooperate with God's will
- the phrase "humble yourself" used often in the Bible
  - refused — Pharaoh, King Amon, King Zedekiah — lead to destruction
  - accepted — David, Ezra, Daniel — lead to greatness, exaltation, promotion
- 2 Chronicles 7:14, God tells us — "if My people will humble themselves and pray..."

"Humility is not a thing that will come as itself, but that it must be made the object of special desire, prayer, faith, and practice."<sup>7</sup> Andrew Murray

**Us humbling ourselves starts with  
not grasping and clinging to our own power, privilege, and prestige.  
Emptying ourselves, not making ourselves of any reputation.  
Becoming a servant of others.**

## 5. Becoming obedient to the death of the cross

- **ultimate humility** — allowing innocent self to take the blame and pay the price for others' sins
- **dying to self** — must be worked out practically and not just understood intellectually

"Our spiritual life will entirely depend upon our putting this grace first too, and making humility the chief thing we admire in Him, the chief thing we ask of Him, the one thing for which we sacrifice all else."<sup>8</sup> Andrew Murray

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<sup>6</sup> Jon Courson, *Jon Courson's Application Commentary, Volume 3*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2004)

<sup>7</sup> Andrew Murray, *The Wisdom of Andrew Murray, Volume 1*, (Radford, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008), 10

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*, 14

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## How might you humble yourself?

**How might you humble yourself, die to yourself,  
and in Christ-like humility start serving others like Jesus did?**

*So important: before you think humility costs too much—and doesn't reward enough...*

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **1 Peter 5:6**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time

**Humility leads to exaltation and honor.  
That's a promise from God!**

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think St. Augustine believed that the three most important aspects of following Jesus are “humility, humility, humility”?
2. God's plan for us is to be conformed into the image of Jesus. In Philippians 1:1-4, what does Paul say that we must do become more Christ-like?
3. How hard would it be for you to have a great status of some kind, and not take advantage of it?
4. If Jesus, who was God in human flesh, depended on and submitted to His Father in every aspect of His life on earth — what does that say about how we should live our lives?
5. Recall some examples of when Jesus humbled Himself in His humanity?
6. Can you recall the last time you intentionally humbled yourself? What was it like?
7. Jon Courson said there is a simple test to know if you are a servant, by how you react when people treat you like one. Have you had a pre-servant experience? A Christlike—servant experience?
8. How are some ways that we can intentionally grow in humility?
9. Is humility the chief thing we admire in Jesus, and the chief thing we ask of him?
10. What are rewards of humility? Have you experienced any of these?

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