

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Teaching Ministry

1.18.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Justified Humility

Luke 18: 9 – 14

Have we ever taken a good look at our lives in terms of our spiritual humility in comparison to those times when our worldly pridefulness controlled us. As believers, we are to always possess an element of humility within our lives. Humility not only strengthens our relationship with God, but it also strengthens our relationship in the body of Christ. Humility can only come through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, true humility is not thinking less of ourselves, but it is thinking of ourselves less. So, humility comes when we stop thinking of ourselves, and we start submitting ourselves unto God. So, when did we first submit to God, it was when, we through our obedience, by faith, believed in Christ Jesus, and the work which he done for us on the cross. As believers, our humility comes not from self-effort, but through the righteousness of our sanctification we acknowledge our need for Gods grace through our faith in Christ, bringing us into our submission and service to him. It is now our realistic, self-examination that helps us to recognize our unworthiness, through our redeemed status, which gives to us our boldness in his mercy and in his grace.

Philippians 2: 3 – 8,.... Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves....look not everyman on his own things, but every man also on the things of others....let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus....

Now, since we have inherited a fallen nature from Adam, humanity tends to look out for number one. But, for us as believers, through the teachings of the word of God, which gives unto us the example of Christ work on earth, we have gained the wisdom and knowledge to live a selfless, humble life, full of God's love. One of the most important selfless acts in our life is looking out for the interest of others, which means keeping our eyes open to new opportunities, so that we might bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Humility promises unity, and if we are to have unity, we must look out for the interest of others, so that the life of Christ might be revealed through us. It was Christ act of voluntary, obedient, suffering and humility for the saving grace of all mankind that is an example for us, so that we might live accordingly, not to be served, but to serve.

Luke 18: 9 – 14,....he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous....two men went up into the temple to pray....a pharisee, and....a publican....the pharisee stood and prayed....with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are....the publican, standing afar off....saying, God be merciful to me a sinner....this man went down to his house justified rather than the other....

So, Christ starts out by addressing all those who are self-righteous, those who look down on others, believing that there are those who are less spiritual than we are. This comes easy to the one whose mind is not guided by the spirit of God, for without total submission to God, we are prone to sin, which leads to a self-righteousness that ignores the truth of God's word and puts worldliness above all else. This is because in the world we feel the need to follow our own self-righteousness, thinking that will bring us to make the right decisions in our life. Our worldly, emotional heart is not trustworthy, and any decision based upon our worldly emotions would be unwise.

Jeremiah 17: 9 – 10,....the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?....I the Lord search the heart, I try the reigns, even to give every man according to his ways....

As believers, we so desperately try to understand why wickedness and sinfulness in the world seems to be growing worse. Mankind's outward appearance can be quite deceiving, and even if we do not know the true content of our heart, God knows. Therefore, since only God can fully know and understand our heart, then we should ask him to search our heart to see if we are trusting in anything other than his will. Gods' intimate knowledge of our innermost being calls us into self-examination, for he sees beyond the worldliness that lies within us and offers unto us an invitation to align ourselves to his will, so that we might live according to our faith in Christ Jesus and not to conform ourselves to the world. Remember God knows the true, hidden motivations that control our actions and behaviors.

So, let us compare ourselves to the parable which Christ taught concerning the true purpose of our relationship with him, can we say that our relationship with God is one of justified humility. Now, we see two men going into the temple to pray. One with great pride, and one with great humility. Pridefulness will cause people to pray as though they feel God owes them something, while humility brings about a sincerity and truthfulness, that leads to repentance. So, this means that there are those who sincerely seek the Lord, and then there are those who use self-righteous insincerity to keep up their spiritual appearances for the sake of worldly recognition. We are all sinners, and we all must recognize our need for Gods mercy and grace, because without it we cannot enter into the kingdom of God. For this reason, we must, as believers, understand that everyone needs forgiveness, and that no one person in Gods eyes is better than any other, So, God promises, through his word, that if we recognize our need for forgiveness, then he will lift us up.

Proverbs 11: 12,....when pride cometh, then cometh shame, but with the lowly is wisdom....

So, daily we are going to come in contact with those who see no need for God in their lives, and even as believers, often time, overconfidence will allow our self-righteousness to overwhelm the righteousness of God in our lives. For this reason, we must avoid believing that we are the master of our own fate, which means that we cannot control the outcome of the circumstances in our life, for only God controls the outcomes and destinations in our life, which are based upon the choices in which we make, that is a reflection of our obedience or our disobedience to his word.

Proverbs 18: 12,....before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility....

So, let us look at a few known facts of our life in Christ, first, in our mind, life itself is uncertain, but when we humbly seek to do Gods will, we will most certainly achieve his purpose and his plan in our life. Secondly, we should never make prideful promises to God, because our pride will always betray us, and like Peter who told Christ that he would lay down his life for his sake, Peter denied Christ, not once, but three times. So, as believers, we must learn to allow God to correctly assign his priorities in our life, which can only come when we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us, for these priorities, which come unto us by Gods given power and strength, can only begin with humility.

Proverbs 28: 26,....he that trusteth in his own heart is a fool, but whoso walketh unwisely, he shall be delivered....

So, this brings me to fact number three, if we do not submit unto God, then surely, we will sin, because when we ignore God, we are putting the worldly desires of our life above his will for us.

1 Corinthians 1: 19,....for it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent....

Isaiah 29: 14,....for the wisdom of these wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid....

Finally, fact number four, worldly wisdom and knowledge make us ineffective in our godly reasoning, therefore, instead of relying on our own wisdom for guidance in our life, we must learn to rely upon the wisdom and knowledge of the truth of God's word.

Proverbs 30: 12,....there is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness....

The result of a self-righteous frame of mind means thinking that we are morally and spiritually secure in Christ. Therefore, our self-righteousness gives unto us a self-centered attitude that makes us unclean in the eyes of God. Self-righteousness comes from following after mans appointed religious ceremonies and rituals, which many promise will make us acceptable unto God, but it does just the opposite. Therefore, God tells unto us through his word exactly what he requires.

Micah 6: 8,....he hath shewed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

So, as believers, we are to live righteously, and maintain a consistent, dependent, intimate relationship with God, which will help us to walk humbly with him, acknowledging his leadership in our life. In doing so we will show the same kindness that God has shown unto us, by extending unto others the grace, the compassion, and the forgiveness of his saving grace.

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