

Humility In Wisdom: 2

The Example of Jesus

Proverbs 4.7-12

“Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you. Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.”

For the Christian wisdom is the most important thing, Solomon calls it the principal thing.

My own definition of wisdom is this: “Wisdom is the ability to hear, accurately judge and act upon God’s principles for righteous living”.

If we exalt wisdom, wisdom will promote us and lift us up. So if we want to be exalted or raised up we need to exalt wisdom and learn the secret of humility.

Philippians 2.5-11

“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 *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. 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.”

Jesus humbled Himself.

- He made Himself of no reputation – a step down.
- He came in the likeness of man – a step down
- He became obedient to death on a cross, even though he did nothing to deserve death – a step down

Because he humbled Himself, God has highly exalted Him

He was obedient to His Father's will. Even in the garden of Gethsemane as He was facing the cross, He prayed and surrendered to His Father's will – not my will but thine be done

John 5.30

“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.”

Jesus did not seek His own will, only that of His Father.
Even as a young man He was about surrendering to His Father's will and was about His business.

Jesus could do nothing of Himself only that which His Father told Him.

John 8.28

“Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”

He spoke only what the Father taught Him.

He only did those things that pleased the Father – He didn’t seek to please the Pharisees, nor His disciples

He submitted to His Father – He only did and said what He heard from His Father – that’s humility

Jesus, living totally surrendered and submitted to the Father, overcame as a man. This should encourage us because since Jesus did it, so can we.

Matthew 3.13-17

“(13) Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. (14) And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” (15) But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be* so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. (16) When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (17) And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.””

(1) John's baptism was a baptism of repentance.

Jesus did not need to be baptised by John. Jesus was sinless and had no need to repent, therefore no need of baptism. There was no old man in the life of Jesus.

(2) John tries to prevent Jesus from being baptised.

– other translations say He “protested strenuously” (Amp) “He objected” (CEV); “He forbade Him” (AV); “He tried to make Him change His mind” (TEV)

What is John's reasoning behind this statement?

- “I’m not worthy to do this”. We can gather this from his statement: “I need to be baptised by You, and are You coming to me”

This thought is an overflow of what is in his heart – he testified himself that “I am not worthy to even carry His sandals” (see verse 11). This is what we were talking about earlier, inverted-pride, John is making himself out to be so unworthy.

He had status – He was chosen by God and had been given the highest of callings – to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.

(3) Jesus answers John's outburst, "Permit it to be so now" - what is He telling John to do? - Take a step down, humble yourself and submit to this request without any objections

Jesus continues "for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" - it is the right and proper way to fulfill righteousness

They both had to something to do for the kingdom of God in order to fulfill righteousness – submission or humility.

- Jesus submitted Himself to be baptised
- John had to submit himself and baptise Jesus.