

Date: December 1, 2019

Advent 1: Worship Fully

Text: Proverbs

Title: Pride & Humility

Big Idea: The starting place of true worship is a posture of humility rather than pride.

- **PROVERBS & FULL WORSHIP**

The idea of ‘worship’ is much broader than mere ‘singing’. Worship consists in the entirety of our lives. *Everything we do is an act of worship*—“whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). If worship encompasses *all* of life, then Proverbs—a book about *all of life*—is, by necessity, a book about worship.

Ask yourself this question: If everything I do is an act of worship, who or what am I worshipping?

- **THE DOWNFALL OF PRIDE**

According to Proverbs, the proud person is “wise in his own eyes”

Proverbs 12:15a & 26:12

Pride Resists Correction and Instruction

Proverbs 9:7-8 & 21:24

Pride & Arrogance are Sin

Proverbs 6:16-17, 8:13, 16:5, 21:4, 25:27

The Result of Pride is a Fall

Proverbs 11:2a, 15:25a, 16:18, 18:12a, 29:23a

- **THE EXALTATION OF HUMILITY**

Humility is Having a Right View of Yourself

Charles H. Spurgeon: “Humility is to make a right estimate of oneself.”

Andrew Murray: “...humility is simply acknowledging the truth of [one’s] position as creature and yielding to God His place” (*Humility*, p. 17).

Proverbs 11:2b, 15:33

Humility is to be preferred over riches

Proverbs 16:19 & Matthew 5:3

Humility Accepts Correction & Instruction

Proverbs 9:8b-9, 12:15b

Humility Trusts in God, not in Self

Proverbs 3:5-7

Humility is Rewarded with Exaltation

Proverbs 25:6-7

We Americans are known for “pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps,” repeating under our breath the unbiblical mantra, “God helps those who help themselves.”

In contrast, when Jesus’ disciples are arguing about which of them is the greatest, Jesus corrects them and makes a few interesting points:

1. *Jesus points out his own example of humility.*

To walk in humility, therefore, is to imitate Jesus.

Matthew 20:28 & Luke 22:27

2. *Humility comes with its rewards.*

Luke 14:11, 18:14, 22:26; Matthew 19:30, 20:26-27

Proverbs 3:34, 15:33, 18:12b, 22:4, 29:23b

3. *Humility draws us closer to God*

Isaiah 57:15 & Psalm 138:6

● **HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU’RE HUMBLE OR PROUD?**

1. How do you relate to God?

- The Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector—Luke 18:9-14.
- Do you see your sin as a *sorrow* or as a *minor inconvenience*?
- Do you try to *earn God’s pleasure* more than you *bask in his provision*?
- Do you say, “*God please give me...*” more than you say, “*God, I’m sorry...*”?
- Do you avoid time with God because it impinges on your time?

2. How do you respond to criticism?

- Do you seek to learn and grow when others speak truth to you?
- Do you look for the nugget of truth in every bit of criticism?
- Do you respond in gentleness and openness, or in anger and defense?

3. How do you treat others?

- Are people a blessing or a nuisance?
- Do you primarily seek to give or to take?
- Do you dive for the bottom of the pile or try to win your place as king (or queen) of the hill?
- When you see needs, do you try to meet them or avoid them?

● **CONCLUSION: WORSHIP FULLY FROM A PLACE OF HUMILITY**

God is everything, I am nothing. That is the rally cry of humility. As Martin Luther once said, “God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, he can make something out of us.”

So in this Advent season, how do we worship fully in the midst of the holiday rush? How do we open ourselves to God working in us and getting the glory in all that we do?

Let’s begin by embracing humility: this is the only door through which we can enter into a life of Full Worship. What we find when we enter through that door is a God who has humbled himself to bring us to himself. His humility extends to us the grace and the opportunity to embrace, be clothed in, and walk in humility.

So let’s begin by looking to the incarnate Jesus—the humble infant, the helpless babe. This humble King is the only One who can rescue us from our pride, from our self-infatuation, from our Fall. Will you humbly bow the knee before the newborn King?