

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Jesus Teaches on Humility

Matthew 18:1-6 reveals a time in Jesus' life when he and the disciples were traveling to Capernaum. While on the road, the disciples entered a private dispute over who was the greatest in the kingdom of God. When they come to Capernaum, Jesus asked them about their discussion, and they seemed to be ashamed and would not answer him (Mk. 9:33-34). Jesus knew what their discussion was about but wanted them to learn a valuable lesson on humility. Jesus then "*called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven***" (Matt. 18:2-4).

While the disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest in the kingdom, Jesus explained to them that only those who "turn" through a spirit of "humility" will even enter in. The disciples of Jesus wouldn't have to worry about who was greatest in the kingdom if they were not even in it. Only those who exhibit a childlike humble spirit and repent of wrong doings will have a place in God's kingdom.

Let us note some associations here. Jesus explained to the disciples that they must repent of wrongdoings (namely their arguing over who was greatest in the kingdom of God) before even being considered a part of the kingdom. Secondly Jesus told them that they must be childlike in the area of "*humility*." There is, therefore, a direct association between one's repentance and being "*humble*." The word "*humble*" (*tapeinoō*) = "to lower... to lessen... to humble, abase... in moral sense, to make lowly, to humble oneself" (LS 792).

When the heart is filled with pride and arrogance, it is difficult to see one's faults. Conversely, when one is of a lowly, abased state one easily recognizes his undone condition. The apostle Paul warned the Roman brethren, "*For I say, through the grace*

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Bradley Hardy remains in Dallas recovering from his surgery. He had some complications that caused him to have secondary surgery. Bradley will likely remain in the hospital through the better part of next week.

Be sure to peruse our **web page** from time to time. There are articles, sermon outlines, books of the Bible studies, audio sermons, archives of past gospel meetings, and a private members only page. The URL is:
www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
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*that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more **highly** than he ought to think; but so to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3). The lowly, abased heart is filled with sorrow due to the sin it has committed against the holy God. Paul wrote the Corinthians saying, “For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance that brings no regret.” (II Cor. 7:10). Those who have the mind of a child in respect to humility will be citizens of the kingdom of God (i.e., their understanding of their lowly state in a world of adults... children go to the parents for all support in this life... they willfully and lovingly submit themselves to their parent’s authority). It is no wonder that Isaiah proclaimed, “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a **contrite and humble spirit**, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite” (Isa. 57:15). Again, David wrote, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalms 51:17).*

Jesus concluded the discussion on humility with the disciples by making another association at Matthew 18:5-6. Jesus had connected repentance with humility and now added to this mix: *belief*. Those who truly believe in Jesus are those who hear the word of God and repent due to a lowly spirit of humility. Their faith is made evident by their obedience and repentance (cf. Jn. 3:36). One’s acceptance into the body of Christ is not so called “sincerity of heart, honesty, or attitude” (though all these play their respective part). One’s acceptance into the church of Christ is conditioned upon a lowly heart in relation to the sin that has been revealed in his life. When one accepts, by faith, the teachings of Jesus and changes his life to be patterned after His, then he is worthy of acceptance. We cannot, therefore, accept or receive one into our fellowship who will not recognize his wrong with a spirit of humility. The fellowship of Christians in any given local setting is thereby bound together by Christ law and one’s humility.

John C. Robertson

Bible Covenants

Introduction:

God has delivered two primary covenants to man through His mercy and loving kindness. These two covenants reveal God’s will for all of humanity as they identify spiritual life and death. God’s first covenant with man revealed sin yet offered no remedy. His second covenant not only revealed sin but offered remission of those faults. Because of God’s covenant laws man has ever had hope. Let us examine these two covenants this morning as we continue our series of

