

Humility is a Virtue for the Strong

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As followers of Christ, our humility is generated out of our spiritual life.

- A humble person senses the need for spiritual life. Our faith encourages us to do our best in whatever we do. That is the goal of humble people. A humble person believes that only God transforms our efforts into success.
- A humble person trusts. He/she knows that without God there is no way he/she can do the best that is needed to be done in life. All human efforts are futile and become a dissipated energy without the grace of God.
- Humility produces good action and the readings of today, especially the Gospel, Jesus talks about the blessedness that comes to a person who cultivate a humble attitude.

1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; starts with a call for the humble to seek the Lord. This is the just thing to do.

- “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed His law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger.”
- The prophet admonishes the poor, the peaceable, the religious, the afflicted, the weak and the lowly to seek the Lord. All those who have fulfilled the ordinances of God’s law should seek His face.
- By this call, the prophet is stimulating the good and humble into a very true life. It is a lifestyle that generate peace of mind even if we have to wait for it to come or we have to suffer before it comes.
- The prophet is inviting us to true piety, which is an inward grace that manifests itself outwardly in holy and excellent living. This is a struggle of life that the humble has to go through in order to attained the blessedness of the Lord.
- Correctness, decency and righteousness are good to attain but they are also reached with plenty of struggle and discipline.
- The growth of the soul in holy character and conduct is gradual. We need to seek to continually advance and aim after a purer life.
- Our personal endeavors and divine discipline will make us progress. This is why the prophet is asking us to seek righteousness and meekness. We can do this by meditation, holy service and in union with the Holy Spirit.
- We are to know that the fruit of living a life of righteousness is found in the favors of the Lord.

2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 1:26-31; is an opportunity for the Apostle Paul to remind the people of the importance of remaining humble if they remember that they were nothing when they were called.

- They are to understand that God will always do something different because He knows the motives of each and every one.

- "...God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God."

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a; Jesus taught the disciples the real way towards a humble life. It is the Beatitudes.

- This is the teaching of integrity and humility that is informed by the wisdom of the cross. It is a wisdom that waits for the Lord even if we have to suffer while waiting.
- Only the disciplined can understand it. The wisdom of the cross is going through the normal human process of life in order to achieve a good result.
- Humility is cultivated through the grace of God.
- The grace of God is visibly manifested in the life of Jesus even leading unto the cross.
- It is a life that sees nothing else except the grace of God among men. It looks at every situation and everyone through the grace of God. It disposes one to serve the other person because of the love that propels us in God.