

Sunday AM - Session 1 - 6/3/2012
"Valley of Humility" – James 4:10

Reading:

Read James 4:7-10

In James 4:7-10 there are 10 aorist imperative verbs; verse 10 contains the last. Look at verse 13-15 about the plans we think we will accomplish; but in reality we must realize that the Lord's plans are the only important plans; our plans carry out only when Our Lord permits it.

We think we are self-made in this society today. It's humbling to realize that God is more responsible for our achievements than we are. We accomplish anything only by His gifts, and we will give account as to how we've utilized the gifts He has given us.

Verse 10: Be humbled before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

BE HUMBLLED (APlmp 2nd p. pl. of TAPEINOO) is the passive voice command to be brought low, devoid of haughtiness, having a modest opinion of oneself. Within ourselves, we will have too high an opinion of ourselves: we are to bring ourselves to a lower rank, having an unassuming manner. It means to submit self to God's humbling Power.

Introduction:

1. The Bible defines humility as the opposite of pride (Proverbs 11:2, 18:12). Pride keeps people focused upon themselves; humility allows us to focus on God; be aware of your own insignificance in the presence of the Lord, and He will empower your life with *significance from Him*. Permit yourselves to be humbled in the Lord's presence.
2. The Bible teaches that humility honors others more than ourselves - Philippians 2:3, 1Peter 5:5
3. The Bible teaches that God wants his people to be characterized by humility - Colossians 3:12, James 3:13, 4:13-17
4. Humility can spare us from God's Wrath (Proverbs 22:4 promises blessing from humility, while Zephaniah 2:3 indicates humility can avoid the wrath of God, also 1 Peter 5:5, quoting Proverbs 3:34)
5. True humility focuses on God, not upon impressing people. God knows the difference between true humility and self-imposition of regulations, designed to make others think one is humble. Look at Colossians 2:16-23; true humility focuses on God rather than non-spiritual notions or unbiblical regulations. False humility focuses on non-spiritual notions and regulations that have no spiritual function. In the Bible, those who are humble *are not wimps*. Matthew 11:29 shows us that despite His great power and strength, our Lord was humble.

Conclusions:

1. You can diffuse arguments when you are humble (Proverbs 15:1)
2. You can handle unfair treatment when you are humble, without being overcome by vengeance (Ephesians 4:31-32); we are to get rid of anger, brawling, slander, etc. We are to be kind and compassionate to one another.
3. You do not have to put up a false front to be humble; you don't need to act like a big shot. The more we know God, the less we feel any need to prove it.
4. You can "eat humble pie" without being crushed when you are humble. You can be made aware of your own failures without defensiveness.
5. We can really ask for forgiveness when we are humble. If you are only 1 percent wrong, you can easily apologize for that one percent (Matthew 5:23-24).