

A Powerful Good

- A good action that brings significant good

A Powerless Good

- A good action that is unlikely to make any difference

Which is humility?

Pray

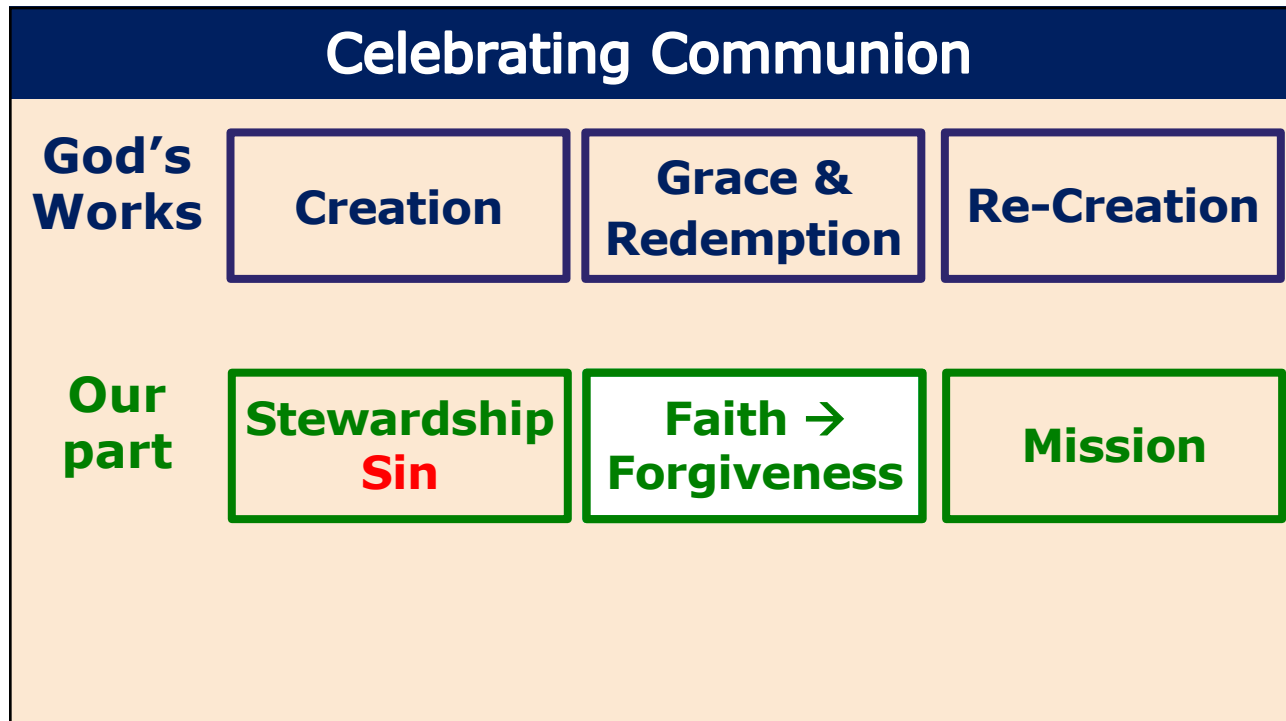
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A Powerful Good

Luke 18:9-17
ref.ly/Lu18;niv



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Reading the Bible

To read the Bible, we must learn to read and listen as if we were the first readers and listeners

The "plain meaning of the text" might be exactly wrong!

Today: "a good Samaritan"

In Jesus' day: no Samaritan was good

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Pecking Order

	Today	Jesus' day
Most respected	Nurses Grade school teachers	Pharisees
Least disrespected	Lobbyists Members of congress	Tax collectors Prostitutes
Least valued	Homeless(?)	Infants

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Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

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¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray,
one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ The **Pharisee** stood by himself and prayed: ‘God,
I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers,
evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the **tax collector** stood at a distance. He would
not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and
said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

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¹⁴ “I tell you that this man [the tax collector],
rather than the other [the Pharisee],
went home **justified before God.**”

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Humble = to make low

Exalt = to raise up

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Luke 18:15-17

¹⁵ People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them.

When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

¹⁷ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

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1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves, therefore,
under God's mighty hand,
that he may **lift you up** in due time.

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To humble oneself under God's mighty hand

God is holy
I am not

God is the righteous judge
I am neither

God has all authority
I must submit to Him

God knows everything
My knowledge is limited

God has true freedom
I do not



To be vulnerable
To be dependent
To be at His mercy

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When I put myself **UNDER**
the **mighty** hand of God
I also put myself **INTO**
the **loving** hand of God

One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:
"Power belongs to you, God,
and with you, LORD, is **unfailing love**" Psalm 62:11-12a



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The Big Idea

God **raises up**
those who **lower themselves**
in Him
and before others

Humility is not
"I'm a nobody and a terrible person"

Humility is
finding my place UNDER God's hand
and BELOW others

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Humility in Action

Lower ourselves in God

- Submit to His authority and commands
 - "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose **sandals** I am not worthy to stoop down and untie." Mark 1:7
 - "He must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30
- Recognize His right and rightness to judge us
- Cry out for His mercy
 - "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Luke 18:13

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Humility in Action

Lower ourselves in God

Lower ourselves before others

- Submit to authorities
 - "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority." 1 Peter 5:13
- Value others above ourselves
 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility **value others above yourselves**, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:3-4

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Humility in Action

Lower ourselves in God

Lower ourselves before others

Trusting that God Himself will raise us up

- "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, **that he may lift you up in due time.**" 1 Peter 5:6

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Jesus

He lowered himself in God

- “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; **yet not my will, but yours be done.**” Luke 22:42
- “he humbled himself by becoming **obedient to death— even death on a cross!**” Philippians 2:8

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Jesus

He lowered himself in God

He lowered himself before others

- “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and **began to wash his disciples’ feet**” John 13:3-4
- “he made himself nothing by **taking the very nature of a servant,** being made in human likeness.” Philippians 2:7

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Jesus

He lowered himself in God

He lowered himself before others

He was raised by God to the highest place!

- “Therefore **God exalted him** to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name”
Philippians 2:9

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The Big Idea

God **raises up**
those who **lower themselves**
in Him
and before others

Because of God's action...
humility is a most powerful good!

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*Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive
the kingdom of God like a little child
will never enter it.*

Luke 18:17