

L-path Teaching
March 17, 2024

Title: **A LIFE OF HUMILITY**

Text: **James 4:7-10**

7Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Introduction:

- In James 4:1-10, James presents his readers with the love and devotion God has toward them. And as a good pastor, it's James' desire to lead his readers into a full experience of that love. Yet, he warns of how easily that love is disregarded by us when we seek to love the Father while, at the same time, loving the world.
- In verses 7-10, James describes the steps that THE LIFE AT IT'S BEST is A LIFE OF HUMILITY for us believers to enjoy a restored fellowship with Him.
- **Humility (Pagpapakumbaba o Kababaang loob)** – is a practice of meekness, obedience to God, respect of self and others, submissiveness and modesty.
- **Humility is considered key for spiritual growth.**

Life at its best is...

I. A life of humility that submits to God (v.7)

- *7Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
- "submit" means, basically, "to subordinate oneself to" or "to align oneself under the authority of" someone else.
 - a. **Pride or arrogance is an alignment with the devil himself.**
 - b. **Willing submission to God is the only solution to this arrogant pride.**
- **There is no other way to resist the devil but by submitting to God.**

II. A life of Humility that draws near to God. (v. 8a)

- Come near to God and he will come near to you...
- **J. Oswald Sanders** - "Both Scripture and experience teach that it is we, not God, who determine the degree of intimacy with Him that we enjoy."
- **Pastor James invites us, "draw near" or "come near" to God; and that he couples this invitation with a promise; that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.**

- There is an intended order in this. A believer is invited to draw near to God; but not until he or she has first submitted to God.

III. A life of Humility that displays Repentance (v. 8b)

- *...Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*
- Repentance must occur in two spheres:
 1. It must occur in the sphere of our outward life.
 - Turning away from the sinful lifestyle practices and patterns that displease Him. We must live a pure moral life before Him.
 2. It must occur in the sphere of our inner man.
 - He calls us "double-minded" and we must "purify our hearts"; that is, to stop from loving something else more than Him.

2Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, [a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. - 1 John 3:2-3

IV. A life of Humility that endures Sorrow (v. 9)

- *9Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.*
- James tells us not only to avoid these feelings, but to actually, deliberately 'feel' them.
- James actually urges us and exhorts us to "feel bad" about our sin!

*8Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because **your sorrow led you to repentance**. For you became sorrowful **as God intended** and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10**Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.** - 2 Corinthians 7:8-10*

V. A life of Humility that trusts God for Exaltation

- *10Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*
- James ends this string of descriptive exhortations with a glorious promise that God would exalt the one who is humbled.
- God Himself is the one who must do the exalting, and not ourselves.

DISCUSSION:

1. Practically speaking, how do you humble yourself before God? How do you repent?
(Paano ka nagpapakumbaba sa Diyos? Paano ka tumatalikod sa kasanalan?)
2. In what ways did Jesus manifest submission and humility? (Sa paanong paraan ipinakita ni Hesus ang kanyang pagpapasakop at pagpapakumbaba?)
3. How will you express your submission to him today? This week? Paano mo maipapakita ang pagpapakumbaba at pagpapasakop sa kanya ngayong araw na ito o ngayong linggong ito?

Life at its best is a life of humility!