

Christian Character – Humility I Kings 3:4-9

Introduction:

Col. 3:12 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Setting of this story:

- Things were going great for Solomon (**3:1-3**).
- When Solomon is in Gibeon, God appears to him in a dream, saying, “Ask, what shall I give you?” (**3:5**).
- This is the first of two times that God appears to Solomon (**I Kgs. 9:2** – after Solomon dedicated the temple).

I. When we are humble, we understand that we cannot go through life alone.

- A. Listen to the way that Solomon answers God (**3:6-8**).
 - 1. He is constantly referring to himself as “Your servant.”
 - 2. He even refers to himself as “a little child” (**3:7**).
 - 3. Solomon knew that he needed help.
- B. We also need to understand that we cannot go through life alone.
 - 1. We must be humble if we are going to make it through life.
 - 2. **Pr. 15:33** - The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.
 - 3. **Rom. 12:3** - For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
 - 4. **Phil. 2:3** - Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.
- C. We all need the help of God so that we can be exalted (lifted up); which is something that we cannot do by ourselves.
 - 1. **I Pet. 5:5-6** - Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." {6} Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.
 - 2. **Js. 4:10** - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
 - 4. **Mt. 18:4** - Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

II. When we are humble, we will be able to help others.

- A. It was because of his humility that Solomon asked for wisdom.
 - 1. He wanted it so that he could be able to better judge the people of God (**3:9**).
 - 2. He knew that he needed help in being the king over Israel.

3. Because of his humility, God granted not only this request, but God also gave Solomon riches and fame (3:10-14).
- B. Jesus also teaches us that if we are going to help others, we must be humble.
1. Jn. 13 – washing the apostles' feet
 2. II Cor. 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 3. Phil. 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
- C. We need to understand that if we are going to be able to help others, we must be humble.
1. Rom. 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
 2. Lk. 22:26 - But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.
 3. If we are going to serve others, we must be humble.

III. As we look at the rest of the life of Solomon, we see the results of a lack of humility.

- A. Notice some of the accomplishments of Solomon.
1. Solomon displayed great wisdom (I Kgs. 3-4).
 2. Solomon built the temple of God (it took 7 years - I Kgs. 5-6).
 3. Solomon built other great buildings (I Kgs. 7).
 4. Solomon brought the ark into the temple and dedicated it (I Kgs. 8).
 5. Many more things could be said about the achievements of Solomon; however, the idea is that Solomon was greatly blessed.
- B. Just after we read of the achievements of Solomon, we see that Solomon turns from the Lord (I Kgs. 11:1-13).
1. Solomon writes about pride in the book of Proverbs.
 - a. Pr. 18:12 - Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.
 - b. Pr. 29:23 - A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.
 2. The book of Ecclesiastes, a book written by Solomon late in his life, talks about the vanity (uselessness) of earthly things, including pride.
 - a. Ecc. 7:8 - The end of a thing is better than its beginning; the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.
 - b. Notice what Solomon says at the end of this book.
 - 1) Ecc. 12:13 - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.
 - 2) In order to truly submit to God, it takes humility on our part.

Conclusion: