

Matthew Series

Lesson #099

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

Humility

Matthew 18:1–4

Matt. 18:1, “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’”

Matt. 18:2, “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,

Matt. 18:3, “and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 18:4. “ ‘Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ ”

1. Basic terminology: Humility, humble

ταπεινῶ *tapeinoō*

Literal: “low lying, brought low”

Came to mean: “someone of low degree, low estate, weak, insignificant, poor”

From that it was used metaphorically:

“someone of lowliness of mind, humble”

2. Humility is in contrast to pride, arrogance, self-absorption. The basic orientation of the sin nature is “ME,” humility is the direct opposite.

3. Humility is a biblical perception of who one is, and orientation to God's authority.

Biblical humility is submission to the legitimate authorities in life.

4. The New Testament picture of humility is given in Phil. 2:5–11

Philippians 2:8, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 2:6, “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,”

Philippians 2:7, “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.”

Philippians 2:8, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

**tapeino,w,
tapeinoo,
aorist active
indicative 3P
“to humble, to see
oneself in proper
relation to reality, to
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Philippians 2:8, “Being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself by becoming obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

**tapeino,w, *tapeinoo*,
aorist active indicative
3P**

**“to humble, to see
oneself in proper
relation to reality, to
place under authority.”**

**gi,nomai, *ginomai*
Aorist middle ptcp
Ptcp of means
“he humbled himself *by*
becoming obedient”**

Philippians 2:9, “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

Philippians 2:10, “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,”

Philippians 2:11, “and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

5. Our Lord demonstrated this humility in His desire to serve.

Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

6. Rather than emphasizing His sovereign authority, the second Person of the Trinity de-emphasized His power, prestige, and person and become a creature in order to serve us by dying on the cross for us.

7. Three types of humility:

False humility: Col. 2:18–23

**Genuine, Christian humility: Col. 3:12;
1 Pet. 5:5; Eph. 4:2**

Enforced humility

8. Humility is foundational to grace orientation. Grace orientation means that we recognize that all that we are and have is from God.

2 Cor. 12:6, “For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

2 Cor. 12:7, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”

2 Cor. 12:8, “Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2 Cor. 12:9, “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Cor. 12:10, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

9. Humility is foundational to learning, to growing and to loving others.

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Eph. 4:2, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,”

10. Humility is foundational to forgiveness and reconciliation.

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

Col. 3:13, “bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

11. Some key Scriptures:

1 Pet. 5:5, “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.*’

1 Pet. 5:6, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

1 Pet. 5:7, “by casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”