

## Humility: An Element of Repentance and Faith

### Scripture

"Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor [is] humility." (Proverbs 18:12 NKJV)

### Commentary

When one considers the true nature of repentance and faith which are required for salvation, it becomes evident that humility is a foundational element of both. Repentance requires a person to see his/her sin clearly, and to agree with God that it is deserving of death. Faith requires the repentant sinner to trust in God in order to escape the death he deserves. One will not come to this understanding as long as he/she hopes in self.

Jesus made it clear that ". . . it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24 NKJV). The context tells the reader that the man's riches are not limited to money.

"When His disciples heard [it], they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at [them] and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. "But many [who are] first will be last, and the last first." (Matthew 19:25-30 NKJV)

The issue is that a man that trusts in his riches is impossible to save. It is not that he can't be saved, but that he can't be saved as long as he trusts in his riches. Of course it is possible for God in His grace to overcome this by granting repentance and faith, but don't miss the point. He must humble himself and count his riches as nothing if he wants to have eternal life.

"Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one [is] good but One, [that is], God. "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich." (Luke 18:18-23 NKJV)

### Prayer

Father we thank you for the many blessings you give us. May we never trust in them, but only in you! Thank you for tearing down our pride that we might see our sin and repent. Help us now to live by faith, amen.