

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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www.magnoliambc.org

Theme Unit: Enduring Beliefs of the Church

Unit II: Grace and Reconciliation

Subject: A Time to Be Bold; A Time to Be Humble, (and a Time for Prayer and Humility)!

Printed Text: Genesis 18: 25-27, 30-32; Luke 18: 9-14; 1 John 5: 14-15

Key verse: I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (Luke 18: 14, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Confident Boldness in Prayer (Genesis 18: 25-27, 30-32; 1 John 5: 14-15)
- 2) Confident Humility in Prayer (Luke 18: 9-14)

Introduction:

It has been often said that pride is thinking of ones self to highly. This is simply focusing oneself on their own importance. Pride and self-importance leads people to ignore or reject GOD and HIS grace, taking credit for the things that only belong to GOD. Now, scripture teaches us that GOD opposes the proud (Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall [Proverbs 16: 18), but gives grace to the humble (But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, GOD resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble James 4: 6). Do know, that at the core of pride; is like worshipping your own self, putting yourself in GOD’S place. But the Word of GOD tells HIS people clearly not to do this (Luke 4: 8 says, “And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the LORD thy GOD, and him only shalt thou serve.” So, we are to let go of pride, and recognize GOD’S authority, humble ourselves, and rely completely on HIM (GOD). By doing this we open the way for GOD’S Divine healing, favor, and acceptance. A great example of pride and humility is found in Luke’s account of the Gospel (Read Luke 18: 9-14).

Lesson Pointer # 1

- **Confident Boldness in Prayer (Genesis 18: 25-27, 30-32; 1 John 5: 14-15)**
GOD visit Abraham along with two angels, to reveal HIS (GOD’S) intention to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sins. Why would GOD visit Abraham to inform him of what HE (GOD) was about to do; well I’m glad that you have asked; GOD did this because of HIS (GOD’S) Covenant relationship with Abraham. Abraham began to have a bold intercessory dialogue with The LORD (GOD). Appealing to their shared relationship, Abraham challenged the idea of the righteous perishing alongside of the wicked, saying that such action would not reflect GOD’S character (Genesis 18: 25). The LORD (GOD) responded by saying, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sake (Genesis 18: 26). Abraham now acknowledged the sovereignty of GOD; Abraham humble himself by confessing that he was but dust and ashes (Genesis 18: 27). But Abraham persisted, confidently asking GOD to spare the city if a specific number of righteous people could be found among them, what if thirty is found, the LORD answered I will not do it if I find thirty (Genesis 18: 30). Abraham asked the LORD (GOD)

what if only twenty can be found; the LORD (GOD) answered, I will not do it if I find twenty (Genesis 18: 31). Abraham persisted to ask the LORD (GOD), what if only ten can be found there. The LORD (GOD) answered, I will not destroy it for ten's sake (Genesis 18: 32). Abraham talked with GOD because he understood GOD'S character, Abraham recognized that his request aligned with GOD'S nature and HIS will. Now, scripture supports scripture, and the same assurance is echoed in 1 John; And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us (1 John 5: 14). Now, as believers in Jesus Christ; we know that HE hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of HIM (1 John 5: 15).

A Time to Be Bold; a Time to Be Humble, (and a Time for prayer and Humility)!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Confident Humility in Prayer (Luke 18: 9-14)**

A humble prayer; Luke chapter eighteen opens with Jesus Christ giving two parables about prayer; the first parable deals with persistence, and the second deals with how GOD'S people are to pray. Jesus Christ talks about the Pharisee and tax collector; in HIS second parable, as He Jesus Christ directed the Parable to those in HIS audience who was caught up in self-righteousness, viewing others with no contempt (Luke 18: 9). Jesus Christ tells of two men who went up to the temple to pray, saying, that one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector (Luke 18: 10). Jesus Christ said that the Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, GOD, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican (Luke 18: 11). The Pharisee continue to say, that, he fast twice in the week, and he give tithes of all that he possess (Luke 18: 12). While the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, GOD be merciful to me a sinner (Luke 18: 13). Jesus Christ ended HIS parable by saying, I tell you, this man (publican) went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (Luke 18: 14). So, being confident in prayer is to humble ones self before the TRUE and LIVING GOD, JESUS CHRIST; surrendering your all to HIM (Jesus Christ), and humbly acknowledge that you are unworthy, and express deep remorse for your sin, repenting, and seeking Jesus Christ's mercy and forgiveness.

A Time to Be Bold; A Time to be Humble, (and a Time for prayer and Humility)!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) **Having a Covenant Relationship with GOD, allow one to have a dialogue with GOD.**
- 2) **Let your request (Prayer) aligned with GOD'S nature, and GOD'S Will.**
- 3) **Humble yourself in prayer, surrender all to GOD, acknowledge your unworthiness, and be remorse of you sin, repent, seek GOD'S mercy and forgiveness, and you shall be exalted.**
- 4) **Be not as the Pharisee who think that he is righteous, and have not any contempt for others.**
- 5) **Being confident in prayer is to humble yourself before the TRUE and LIVING GOD, JESUS CHRIST.**
- 6) **Do not look down on others, but first take a look at yourself, and ask GOD to be merciful unto you and to forgive you of your sin.**
- 7) **Now as believers in Jesus Christ we know that we have confident in HIM; that whatsoever we ask in HIS (Jesus Christ) name, HE hears us.**