

15 Biblical Lessons on Humility: Following Jesus' Example

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Christian Reflections to Build your Faith, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

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Humility forms the cornerstone of a fulfilling Christian life. Jesus, the ultimate example, embodied humility in every facet of his earthly ministry, showcasing its transformative power. This exploration delves into fifteen key lessons from his life and teachings, guiding us towards a more humble existence.

1. The Incarnation: A Testament to Humility: Jesus, the Son of God, willingly relinquished divine privilege, choosing to embrace human form. Philippians 2:7 eloquently states, "He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant." This profound act calls us to shed our pride and cultivate a servant's heart.

2. Servanthood: The Essence of True Greatness: By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus redefined greatness. John 13:14-15 instructs, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." This act underscores that true leadership lies in selfless service.

3. Prayerful Dependence: Seeking God's Will: Jesus consistently demonstrated reliance on his Heavenly Father through fervent prayer. His plea in Luke 22:42, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done," exemplifies unwavering faith and submission to God's plan.

4. Compassion for the Marginalized: Embracing Inclusivity: Jesus extended compassion and acceptance to society's outcasts, sharing meals with tax collectors and sinners. Mark 2:17 clarifies his mission: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." This highlights the importance of embracing all individuals with love and understanding.

5. Redirecting Glory: Ascribing Honor to God: Jesus consistently deflected praise, directing all glory towards his Father. His words in John 8:50, "I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge," serve as a powerful reminder to give God the credit for all accomplishments.

6. Forgiveness: Extending Grace: Jesus exemplified forgiveness, even on the cross. His prayer in Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," teaches us the power of extending grace, even when deeply wronged.

7. Truth Spoken in Love: Building Others Up: Jesus communicated truth with love and compassion. Ephesians 4:15 encourages us to "speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ." This emphasizes the importance of choosing our words carefully and striving to edify rather than tear down.

8. Attentive to Needs: Meeting Others' Requirements: Jesus consistently demonstrated care for others, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and comforting the

brokenhearted. Matthew 9:36 captures his compassionate nature: "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

9. Parables of Humility: The Path to True Exaltation: Jesus used parables to teach about humility. In Luke 14:11, He states, "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." This emphasizes that genuine greatness stems from surrendering personal desires to God's will.

10. Submission to God's Plan: Accepting Suffering and Sacrifice: Jesus willingly submitted to God's plan, even amidst suffering and sacrifice. His prayer in Mark 14:36, "Yet not what I will, but what you will," demonstrates complete trust in God's sovereignty.

11. Valuing Children: Embracing Childlike Faith: Jesus emphasized the importance of humility by welcoming children. His words in Matthew 18:4, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven," underscore the value of approaching God with childlike faith and dependence.

12. Prioritizing Others: Selfless Service: Jesus prioritized others' needs above his own. Matthew 20:28 states, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." This exemplifies the essence of selfless service and sacrificial love.

13. Caution Against Self-Righteousness: The Importance of Repentance: Jesus cautioned against self-righteousness. The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14 highlights the need for humility and repentance. We should rely on God's grace, not our own perceived righteousness.

14. Association with Sinners: Unconditional Love and Acceptance: Jesus willingly associated with sinners. Mark 2:16 recounts, "When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: 'Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?'" This illustrates Jesus' unconditional love and acceptance of all.

15. Love as the Foundation of Humility: A Reflection of Christ's Love: Jesus taught that true humility stems from a heart filled with love. John 13:34-35 states, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." Our humility should reflect our deep love for God and for others.

As we reflect on these fifteen profound lessons, let us strive to cultivate humility daily. May we be empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve, love, and trust God completely. Let our lives be living testaments to the transformative power of genuine humility. May God bless you on this journey of faith and humility.

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