

Sabbath School Lesson #3 – Pride Versus Humility – 11-17 April 2026

Christ warned His disciples and warns us today, that, “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 14:11). The pastors in the church are ministers, they are not masters, or lords over the laypeople. Warning His disciples against the practice of the scribes and Pharisees, He says “be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren....” (Matthew 23:6-12). Our Lord has given us an example to follow. “Christ glorified not Himself to be made an High Priest” (Hebrews 5:5). He “made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant,” and “humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him” (Philippians 2:7-9). He was the One in whom God was well pleased, and God exalted Him. Let us not forget that no one who is not always willing to serve can ever reign with the Lord. God calls us all to a place in His work; but it is that we may be instruments in His hands, and not He an instrument in our hands.

Sunday: The Tight Fingers of Pride – Read 1 John 2:15-17; what does this passage teach us about pride and loving the world? The things of the world to avoid: “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” The world will pass away, but never be converted. It will never help the cause of Christ along, because it knows Him not. His people are chosen out of the world, so that they are not to be of it, even while living in it. Just as darkness never becomes light, so the world can never become Christian. Darkened hearts may be enlightened, and men may come out from the world; but so long as they form part of the world, they are opposed to God. “If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.” “Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

Since the friendship of the world is enmity against God, it follows that the world itself hates God. Consequently, the world must hate God’s people. “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not” (John 1:10). He says to His people, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:18-19). Thus it is that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). “The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord” (Matthew 10:24). Christ could not get out of this world except by the cross, without denying that He was the Son of God. His followers must expect similar treatment. He who wishes the Christian way made so easy that he will suffer no inconvenience, wishes to be counted a Christian while denying the Lord that bought him.

There is an intensely practical point to all this. The law of God says, “The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God,” and Christ, by whose life we are saved, had the law in His heart as the spring of His life. He kept the Father’s commandments, leaving us an example. It is not easy to keep the Sabbath in this world, for laws of the world are against it. Many are hesitating about doing what they know to be their duty, because of the inconvenience. But such remember that where Christ is there is the cross, and that religion without the cross of Christ is sin. Then let them say, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14).

Monday: Know Yourself – Read Luke 18:9-14; what important lesson is here for us all? We need to avoid faulty prayers. The natural man never likes to acknowledge that he has done wrong. And if he is sorry in word it is after his sin has found him out, and a penalty is about to be inflicted. When Saul went contrary to the Lord’s instruction to destroy Amalek, he sought to justify himself All the way along till Samuel said to him, “Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king” (1 Samule 15:23). Then Saul could say, “I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and thy words.” So, it was with Pharaoh who prayed, “Entreat the Lord that He may take away the frogs from me.” A fatal flaw is manifest in that prayer. It contains no confession of sin. He says not, “I have rebelled against the Lord: entreat that I may find forgiveness!” Nothing of the kind; he loves sin as much as ever. A prayer without penitence is a prayer without acceptance. If no tear has fallen upon it, it is withered. Thou must come to God as a sinner through a Saviour, but by no other way. He that comes to God as the Pharisee, with,

“God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are,” never draws near to God at all; but he that cries, “God be merciful to me a sinner,” has come to God by the way which God has Himself appointed. There must be confession of sin before God, or our prayer is faulty.

Tuesday: Moses, Humble Servant – Read Hebrews 11:24-26; did Moses make a wise choice and what choices are you making today? “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.” Was his choice a wise one? We know well how it must have appeared to the world-loving Egyptians at the time. Moses, with learning and culture, the highest positions the world could offer within his reach, turned from these prospects joining himself to a cause that was under reproach, and made himself one with a people in bondage, enduring penal servitude according to the laws of the land. ‘What fanaticism!’ his highly placed friends must have exclaimed, as they saw him giving up a ‘sure thing’ for such a cause. To-day we look at the ruins of the land of Egypt, and may even look at the mummies of long-forgotten rulers in ancient Egypt, exhibited to the gaze of curious tourists in that land which has become the basest of nations. Was Moses’ choice a wise one? We think of his life of trial and leading a host of murmurers and fault-finders, but also of his unparalleled communion with God, as with a friend, face to face. And then, too, we think of him as he is now – for he was raised to life (Jude 9) – and as he appeared on the mount of transfiguration with Elijah who never died; and how small do the glories of Egypt, which he might have held for a few years, appear in contrast with the eternal glories which are his. It is so always, but when Christ and His truth bring us to the choice now, how large seems a little fragment of this world’s possessions or prospects, and how far off seems the Divine inheritance. It is because the devil blinds the eyes, and men do not believe the Lord. But the faith of Jesus in Moses’ days led him to set the proper value upon this world, and the faith of Jesus now will lead every one who will accept it to make the same wise choice.

Wednesday: The Greatest Offense – Read Luke 22:24-27; what is the great lesson here taught by Jesus in these verses? It is the greatness of service. Service is not a mark of degradation, but of greatness. We are accustomed to think of the position of a servant as a menial one, because it has been made so in the majority of cases by the customs and traditions of men; but considered from the standpoint of Gospel truth, it is not so. To His disciples the Saviour said the one who is greater is not the one who “sitteth at meat” but “he that serveth.” From the world’s standpoint, he that sitteth at meat is greater than He that serves; yet Christ, the only begotten Son of the eternal God, came and took on earth a place of a servant; and in this He did not degrade Himself, but invested with His own glory and greatness all service for the benefit of our fellow-men. And is not God Himself the greatest servant in the universe? Who does so much to minister to the comfort and happiness of all creatures as He? Not only does He minister in things that are great and exalted, but in all the little things that pertain to daily existence, whether of high or low, rich or poor. By the power of the Lord all live and move (Acts 17:28) even to the vilest vagabond of the street is given “life, and breath, and all things,” as freely as to anyone else. “He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45). The path that leads to greatness is the path of service; and in proportion to the service we have rendered to our fellows here, and to the capacity we have developed for being a blessing to others, will be the height of the station assigned us in the world hereafter.

Thursday: Look at Him – Read Luke 22:27 again; what is the key message for all of Christ’s followers here? Christ said, “I am among you as He that serveth.” When He came to this earth, He “took upon Him the form of a servant.” He did not act the hypocrite. He did not appear to be something that He was not. All that He changed was His form. He did not need to change anything else; for He was already a servant. He was in the form of a King, even the King of kings; and if He had come to the earth in that form, everybody would have been so overawed, not to say dazzled by the brightness of His glory, that they could not have appreciated His character. Therefore He changed His form, so as to appear like a servant, so that the world might see that, although He is Lord and Master, He is also Servant, and that the depth of His service is measured by the greatness of His power as King.