

## Holiness 2

Subtitle; Holiness and Humility

One should be very careful in the pursuit of holiness lest pride swells our hearts. Pride will completely cancel out our attempts at being holy.

In our day to day lives as well as the church, holiness and humility must flow together.

Jesus Christ was the ultimate example of holiness.

- *As a man, he also lived a life of humility.*
- In him holiness and humility were inseparable.
- He refused anything of earth that would lead him to pride.

Check out the following about the life of Jesus Christ.

- Born in a stable (Luke 2:7)
- Dwelt in Nazareth, not a place of prestige (Math 2:23)
- Had no dwelling place (Math 8:20)
- Chose the occupation of a carpenter (Mark 6:3)
- Totally refused the praise of men (Math 8:4)
- First sermon was filled with calls for humility (Math 5-7)
- Declared I am meek and lowly in heart (Math 11:29)
- Rode a donkey at his triumphal entry (Mark 11:7)
- Washed the feet of his disciples, took on the form of a servant (John 13:5)
- Endured spitting in the face, and being slapped (Math 27:30)
- Died on a cross like a common criminal (Math 27:35)

Humility is very vital when it comes to preserving true holiness.

We must use caution in our quest for holiness.

Everyone that comes to God feels the need to be holy, and to draw away from sinful behaviors. To want to live in holiness is good, but if the pursuit of holiness is not built on humility, our attempts can actually evolve into unholiness.

- There is a tendency in humans to look down on others who seem to be shirking their duty.
- We cannot help but to feel bad and sad for those who do ungodly things (things that are out-side his liking)
- However; when we begin to feel holier than others and begin to sit as judge and jury over our brothers and sisters without mercy, much prayer and encouragement, we are just sounding brass and tinkling symbols, and that in turn nullifies our attempts to be holy.
- True holiness will produce the Christ like spirit of meekness.
- We must keep a constant vigil on our attitude lest our efforts toward holiness morph into something majorly displeasing to God.

- We can begin with the best of all motives, but if we are not careful, pride will swell in our hearts and completely cancel our original attempt to be holy.

### **Let's look at Jesus as he addressed the arrogance of the Pharisees.**

Jesus warned his disciples of the leaven of the Pharisees. (Read; Luke 12:1)

- Leaven was the yeast of biblical times and it was used in bread dough to puff up the ingredients.
  - Leaven was small in comparison to the flour but it would spread and infect the entire dough.
  - The pride and arrogance of the Pharisees was just like leaven; let go it would puff up and over power the church leaving it barren of true holiness.
  - Jesus wanted a holy church, but at the same time he had to protect it from the leaven of the Pharisees.
  - If the disciples had to be careful about the leaven of the Pharisees, then we should heed the Lord's warning as well.
  - In Mathew 23, Jesus gave his most scathing denouncement in all the gospels to the Pharisees.
  - The Lord had no problem with their holiness; it was their hypocrisy and arrogance.
  - We as the last day church would do well to study what caused such a denouncement.
1. they made the out-side look good and ignored the ugliness inside the heart (Math 23:25-28)
  2. Their greatest sin was pride. The meek and lowly Jesus was offended by this. While they were heralding their holiness, the holy one of God pronounced it hypocritical. (Math 23:5-12)

### **What did Jesus say?**

Math 23:12, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

- As a movement and as a church we have brought glory to God by maintaining biblical standards and refusing to be swept away by the worlds influence.
- We have worked hard to follow the biblical mandate to "be ye holy for I am holy"
- But we must not forget the paramount need to be humble.
- Peter said; 1Peter 5:5, "be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."
- James said; James 4:10, "humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

We live in wicked and unholy times. We are going to have our tree shaken from time to time to see what kind of fruit falls or manifest itself.

- We should let Jesus be our model, and we should want to constantly measure ourselves by him.
- From the womb to the tomb, he taught us holiness and humility.