

“How Then, Will We Live?” Part 5 “This Humility!”

Previously on HTWWL... Learning what it means, and looks like, to unlock our kingdom potential for the times we are living in! Local demographics changing radically! *Must have wide open arms for people!* Core changes ahead for our nation! While we have lost our “national” mind... We haven’t lost the mind of Christ, the wisdom from above, the leading of the Holy Spirit! One by one we can demonstrate the soundness that Jesus gives us! *Must stand firm, unshakable!* Terror-filled, sorrowful, times! *Must remain people of faith and hope!* Seduction of American Youth! Next week: Panel to equip us for the challenge, armored up and determined!

We are not facing these days alone but we must “be ready to give an account of the hope that is within us!”

The days may be crazy, but it’s a prime time for the church to shine, to bring order to confusion, to bring stability to weakness!

It’s time for us to do the work of our ministries, to go into our worlds and demonstrate the love of God that overcomes! (“I have no hands but yours!”)

And we can do our ministry because... “we set God in the center of our hearts...” **1Peter 3.15a** We are “ready to explain why we live with the hope that we have...” **15b** We “deliver our message with *meekness toward men and fear toward God!*” **15c** Privileged, *but unassuming*, “*serving for a lifetime like Christ!*” **Phil2** Free from the disabling distractions of vain comparisons! **2Cor 10.12** Comparing ourselves to others, for value, for character, for assurance is always unwise and disabling!

When we get to, “I’m better than...” “I’m not as bad as...” we have fallen into a snare, and we’re not going anywhere! The only wise comparison’s we can make are to God’s will, His words and His son... and we left off “side-by-side” with Him!

How Then Will We Live? With Jesus by your side! See Him, in His perfection, by your side! Big Brother, rubbing shoulders, assuring us of familial spot! **Rom 8.17,29** **BYS** with all His resources... “*Perfected* for all good works!” **2Tim3.17, Rom 1.16, John 16.7,15 Rom 8.32** His power, love, sound mind... **2Tim 1.7** **BYS** with the love that covers all of your sins... **Pr 10.12, John 8.11, 1J2.1 GIVING VALUE, ENABLEMENT, CLARITY, GRACE, MERCY AND FREEDOM...**

“And when He called them together and gave them power... and commanded them... He said, *freely you have received, freely give!*” **Mt 10.1-8**

WJBYS! With Jesus by your side! *Beyond* feeling condemned, bad, puny, weak, helpless, unlovely, sick, or stuck... *Not only* proud, privileged, free, blessed... serving lovingly, willingly, dutifully... But how about living the life of the truly humbled... Not because of His might and perfection... Not because of His love and forgiveness... But because of His love and compensation?”

Case Study #1 “I was taught after a perfect manner of the law and was zealous toward God and I persecuted this way unto death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women... *and on my way to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus...* a great light shined around me and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me, you can’t win? But get up, I am making you a minister unto Me...” **Acts 22.3-7 26.9-16**

Saul, now Paul, truly thought he knew what he was doing... but he didn’t... *And Jesus made up the gap!*

Paul's understanding: "He was seen of me, as one born out of due season for I am the least of the sent ones because I persecuted the church of God. By grace I am what I am..." **1Cor 15.8-10**

This is the speech of a man humbled by the love of God in Christ Jesus! An enemy redeemed, the price for blindness paid in full!

This is humility based on the compensation Jesus paid for every blind/ dumb/self-assured thing we have ever done!

Case Study #2 "I will lay down my life for you! Jesus answered, 'Will you? Before morning you will deny Me three times!' Peter said, *'though it kills me, I will not deny you.'* In the prayer garden they awoke to the sounds of a great multitude coming for Jesus *and His disciples fled*. Once outside the palace, another time on the porch and again, he denied knowing Jesus and the rooster crowed." But Jesus prayed for him that his faith would not fail..." **J13.37,38 Mt 26.33ff Lk 22.32**

For Peter's bravado, his fears, his lack of courage, his fallen flesh, his failure... Jesus stood in the gap!

And "*when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned men and ignorant men, they marveled and took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus!*" **Acts 4.13**

These are the actions of men redeemed by the love of God in Christ Jesus!

This is humility based on the compensation He paid for every painful denial and refusal to stand our ground!

Case Study #3 "Two men were on the walk to Emmaus talking about everything that happened when Jesus drew near, though they didn't "see" him. He asked what they were talking about *and why so sad?* Cleopas asked, 'are you a foreigner here? That's the only way you wouldn't know what has happened.' Jesus asked, "What?" Then He opened the scriptures to them and they constrained him to stay. And as He blessed and broke bread, their eyes were opened and their hearts burned in them!" **Lk 24.13-32**

These men were hurt, confused and disappointed and didn't know what they were going to do next... and Jesus walked right into the gap!

"They got up without hesitation and made their way to proclaim the things the Lord had done for them and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread (communion)!" **Luke 24.33-35**

These are the actions of men redeemed by the love of God in Christ Jesus!

This is humility based on the compensation He paid for every fearful, confused moment of our lives!

Why all 'this' humility? Because the right type of humility will cause us to bow down in love and obey the Lord for our lifetimes! Because the right type of humility will cause us to love and serve others and to 'die' for the sake of Jesus!

The source of this humility? The fact that Jesus has covered us all a thousand times over for every dark, dumb, weak, failure! "I say to you, people whose sins are many and forgiven, love much... but the ones to whom little is forgiven, their love is puny!" **Lk 7.47**