**Humility**

**What does the Lord require of you**

**but to do justice, and to love kindness,**

**and to walk humbly with your God?**

***(Micah 6:8)***

**Blessed are the pure in spirit,**

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

***(St. Matthew 5:3)***

**Whoever becomes humble like this child**

**is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

***(St. Matthew 18:4)***

**When the terrorists are among you: Americans now understand what it's like to be a Pakistani, said Rafia Zakaria. Before thousands of white extremists stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6, killing and injuring police officers and threatening lawmakers, many Americans believed that terrorism was an inherently "Muslim problem, inextricably tied to something about the faith." So deep was American denial that even when a conspiracy theorist exploded a truck bomb outside a Nashville AT&T building -- possibly because he thought 5G networks were somehow being used to kill people -- their analysts refused to call him a terrorist. Now Americans are faced with the terrifying truth that people who look and worship just like them are actually terrorists -- and that their security agencies have been shockingly lax in identifying and monitoring them. The helplessness that Americans feel -- "wanting to do something but not knowing what" -- "is the helplessness that Pakistani citizens felt" when Islamists were bombing our cities and overrunning our schools. If we were following the U.S. playbook, we would label the U.S. a "safe haven" for white-supremacist terrorists, and "Canada or Mexico would be well within their rights to attack and take over." Perhaps now the Americans will learn a little humility. *(The Week magazine, January 29, 2021)***

**The more seriously someone takes themselves, the more likely they’ll have a humiliating public scandal. *(Tom Arnold, actor)***

**An arrogant tycoon once told his minister that there really was no need for him to pray ever again. After all, he had everything -- he was young, rich, and good looking. After hearing this, the minister said, “Well, you might want to pray for humility.” *(Bits & Pieces) 226981***

**The “Second” avenues nationwide outnumber the “First” avenues. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I’ve never had a humble opinion in my life. If you’re going to have one, why bother to be humble about it? *(Joan Baez)***

**Newscaster Tom Brokaw tells a good story on himself. He said that when he first went on the TODAY program as co-host, he felt he had reached the pinnacle of success. One day he was wandering around Bloomingdale’s in New York and he noticed a man watching him closely. The man kept staring at him and finally approached him. “Oh well,” thought Brokaw. “Such is the price of celebrity.” The man pointed a finger at him and said. “Tom Brokaw, right?” Brokaw answered, “Right.” The man continued. “You used to do the morning news on KMTV in Omaha, right?” Brokaw said, “That’s right.” Brokaw was kind of enjoying being recognized now as a national television celebrity. “I knew it the minute I spotted you,” the fellow said. Then he paused and added, “Say, whatever happened to you?”**

**Then Texas Governor George W. Bush has an oil painting on his office wall that was commissioned by one of his more famous predecessors, Sam Houston. It depicts a tunic-clad, somber-faced Houston, standing amid the ruins of Carthage. “The reason that’s on the wall,” Bush explained to a visitor, “is to remind me that there’s a fine line between being the governor of Texas and making a fool of yourself.” *(Sam Howe Verhovek, in New York Times)***

**Jim Miles, South Carolina’s secretary of state, admitted that campaigning for public office can be a humbling experience. He was in a small town waiting to be interviewed on radio. “When I got to the station,” said Miles, the newsman was running out the door. “You’ll have to come back later,” he said. “There’s an alligator crossing Highway 278.” *(Aiken, in South Carolina, Standard, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, May, 1994)***

**The former president who spurns wealth: Former President Jimmy Carter leads a very modest life, said Kevin Sullivan and Mary Jordan in The Washington Post. He still lives with his wife of 72 years, Rosalynn, in the two-bedroom ranch house in Plains, Georgia, they built in 1961, and teaches Sunday School at the local Baptist church. Carter was known for shunning the pomp of the presidency, insisting on carrying his suitcase onto Air Force One, and he's maintained that humility since leaving the White House in 1981. Unlike the former presidents who join corporate boards and sign lucrative book deals, Carter says, he didn't want to "capitalize financially on being in the White House," adding, "It just never had been my ambition to be rich." Now 93, he still does household chores, washing the dishes after he and Rosalynn, 91, cook dinner. He writes in a converted garage in their house, and does charity work in his town of Plains and at his foundation headquarters in Atlanta, while helping restore homes -- with his own hammer and tool belt -- for Habitat for Humanity. He's stayed in Plains , where he grew up on a peanut farm during the Great Depression, because he can't imagine living anywhere else. "We feel at home here," he says, "and the folks in town, when we need it, they take care of us." (*The Week magazine, September 7, 2018)***

**Sir Winston Churchill, always the comic, once targeted a political colleague with this remark: “He is a modest man, and he has much to be modest about.” Although intended as a slam, Churchill had a point. Is it not true that all of us have much to be modest about? When you put yourself on a mighty pedestal and elevate yourself above the rest of the world, just keep in mind that the size of your funeral is going to depend a lot on the weather. Now that will help you keep things in perspective. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in Speaker’s Sourcebook II, p. 197)***

**How can some people become so conceited, when everyone knows we all begin and end as nothing? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Humility is the foundation of all the virtues. *(Confucius)***

**My 17-year-old son returned home from a 1950s costume party with a first-place award. As I admired his certificate, he told me the judges unanimously voted him “Best-dressed Nerd.” My smile faded when I noticed his “costume” came from my closet. *(Richard Maffeo, in Catholic Digest)***

**Never be haughty to the humble. Never be humble to the haughty. *(Jefferson Davis)***

**The most difficult instrument to play well is second fiddle. *(Liguorian)***

**Thanks for the reminder that Earth is but a small grain of sand on the beach when compared with the size of the known universe. *(Vincent M. Carini, in Time magazine)***

**Explain, please, the origin of “to eat humble pie.” After a butchering, the gentry ate the steaks, the servants ate the innards, known then as the “humbles.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One of his neighbors, the mother of a ten-year-old girl, noticed that the child often visited Albert Einstein’s house. The woman wondered at this, and the child explained: “I had trouble with my homework in arithmetic. People said that at No. 112 there lives a very big mathematician, who he also a very good man. I asked him to help me. He was very willing, and explained everything very well. He said I should come whenever I find a problem too difficult.” Alarmed at the child’s boldness, the girl’s mother went to Einstein to apologize. Einstein said, “You don’t have to excuse yourself. I have learned more from the conversations with the child than she has from me.” *(Philipp Frank)***

**Extremes meet and there is no better example than the haughtiness of humility. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**Humility is evidence that you have successfully failed. *(Submitted by Guideposts reader Marcia Lynch, of Fairfax, Virginia)***

**Football teams of two Kansas high schools, Haven and Sylvia, played a game in 1928 that ended: Haven 256, Sylvia 0. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Comedian Jeff Foxworthy, who stars in his own TV sitcom, quit a job at IBM in 1984 to try comedy full time. He credits his wife, Gregg, with helping him keep perspective: Not long ago, while I was washing dishes, I saw a commercial on television for a show called “Before They Were Stars IV.” There I was onscreen, from 1985, doing stand-up on amateur night in Eufalla, Alabama. “Honey,” I called to Gregg, “if I’m on this show, does that mean I’m a star now?” She handed me the crusty roast pan – a reality check, if ever there was one. *(From No Shirt, No Shoes … No Problem!)***

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**After crosses and losses, men grow humbler and wiser. *(Ben Franklin)***

**Benjamin Franklin is credited with a greater variety of accomplishments than any other American, I think. But you can tell what he was most proud of. On his tombstone, only this: “Benjamin Franklin, Printer.” *(L. M. Boyd)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**As anyone who has ever attempted a garden knows, the payback for one's patient planning and chipped fingernails seems, finally, nothing short of a miracle. One sunny day, the satiny petals of the peony unfurl; the delphinium's blue outdoes the bluebird. Suddenly stiff backs and nursery bills are forgotten -- or, at least, forgiven. Amid the joy even the simplest annual border or backyard plot can give us, there's little risk in becoming overly proud of one's garden because gardening by its very nature is humbling. It has a way of keeping you on your knees. *(JoAnn R. Barwick, in House Beautiful)***

**What the world needs is more geniuses with humility. There are so few of us left. (*Oscar Levant, entertainer)***

**Dad says to Rose: “When a heavy weight needs to be lifted, always remember to bend your knees!” *(Pat Brady, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**Those who travel the high road of humility are not troubled by heavy traffic. *(Sen. Alan K. Simpson)***

**Humility: The first of all other virtues -- for other people. *(Oliver Wendell Holmes)***

**Before spring becomes beautiful, it is ugly, nothing but mud and muck. I love the fact that the word “humus” -- the decayed vegetable matter that feeds plants -- comes from the same root that gives rise to the word “humility.” It helps me understand that the humiliating events of life, the events that leave “mud on my face” or that “make my name mud,” may create the fertile soil in which something new can grow. *(Parker J. Palmer, in Let Your Life Speak)***

**When my aunt backed the family van into the garage, she accidentally knocked off a side mirror. “Someone hit the van while I was shopping at the mall,” she told my uncle upon his return from the office. “The culprit didn't even leave a note. Can you imagine the nerve?” “The guy had more nerve than you think,” my uncle replied. “He even followed you and put the broken glass in our garage.” *(Lynn Sowers, in Reader's Digest)***

**Scripture records only one time that Jesus Christ admitted that He was the Messiah, and that was in a private conversation. See St. John 4:26. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 63)***

**There is nothing so humbling as waiting – that is why time was created, so that we might learn to wait. *(Thomas Keating)***

**“God made me the kind of person who wanted to write stories,” Stephen King says. “There's really a simple and egotistical idea at the bottom of it all, one that has sustained artists from time immemorial. It's the feeling that ‘I'm great; they're going to love this; I'll be rich and famous and never suffer again.’ But that's only partly true. Nothing really changes. I'll still be told by my wife, ‘Steve, we need a loaf of bread,’ and so I'll go out shopping. If I forget and come back instead with an idea that I tell her will make us $2 million, she'll still say, ‘Steve, I'm delighted, but we need a loaf of bread.’” *(Bill Goldstein, in Publishers Weekly)***

**On our 20th wedding anniversary, my husband and I were cuddling in front of a cozy fire. In the throes of a passionate kiss, I noticed that the living-room blinds were open. “Just a minute,” I said, leaving my man's embrace to drop the shades. “Now,” I asked coyly, “where were we?” “Apparently looking out the window,” he replied. *(Carol Packer, in Reader's Digest)***

**Once, after Henry Kissinger was introduced at a speaking engagement, everyone in the audience rose and applauded him. At last the clapping subsided, and people sat down. "I want to thank you for stopping the applause," Kissinger said. "It is impossible for me to look humble for any period of time." *(J. M. A., in Reader's Digest)***

**Recently retired from CBS News, Charles Kuralt came to know fame due to his "On the Road" TV series and the "Sunday Morning" show on CBS. But he knew humility first and occasionally would get reacquainted with it. The TV journalist started modestly as a newspaper reporter in North Carolina. After he joined CBS and began "On the Road" features, he soon found that fame was elusive. He would introduce himself in small towns and say he was part of Walter Cronkite's news team, but convincing people that he was with CBS was difficult. Eventually, of course, his face became well-known. He was thinking about that one day as he stood in the doorway of the big, white motor home in which he traveled. It was parked on the street in a small mid-western town, and Kuralt was squinting into the early morning sun, enjoying the first cup of coffee of the day. A petite lady came toward him and he waited expectantly for the recognition he felt was on the way. She looked at him and said, sweetly, "I'd like two loaves of rye, unsliced." *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**A man wrote a book Humility and How I Attained It, and suggested to the publisher that the book include eight large-size photos of the author. *(Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips for Church Publications, p. 57)***

**Affection is the humblest love – it gives itself no airs. It lives with humble, private things: soft slippers, old clothes, old jokes, the thump of a sleepy dog’s tail on the kitchen floor. The glory of affection is that it can unite those who are not “made for one another,” people who, if not put down by fate in the same household or community, would have nothing to do with one another. Affection broadens our minds; of all natural loves it teaches us first to notice, then to smile at, then to enjoy, and finally to appreciate, the people who “happen to be there.” Made for us? Thank God, no. They are themselves, odder than you could have believed and worth far more than we guessed. *(C. S. Lewis, in The Four Loves)***

**During a mid-morning break from skiing at Vail, I was standing at a counter, drinking hot chocolate, when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around and saw a young, good-looking couple. The man asked, “Are you Henry Mancini?” And I, giving my best “ah, shucks” crooked smile, replied, “Well, yes, I am.” He said, “You dropped your credit card.” *(Henry Mancini with Gene Lees, in Did They Mention the Music?)***

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**When Thomas Mann was visiting America for the first time, one of Hollywood’s literati abased himself before the novelist, emphasizing that he was nothing, a mere hack, his work not to be mentioned in the same breath with that of the master. Mann listened with infinite patience and courtesy, but when the party was over, he turned to his host, an old friend, and said, “That man has no right to make himself so small. He is not that big.” *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 63)***

**Thomas Mann was once introduced to a successful American writer who groveled abjectly before the eminent novelist, explaining humbly that he was simply a hack who should hardly call himself a writer in the presence of so great an artist. Mann was courteous, but later said to his host, “That man has no right to make himself so small. He is not that big.” *(Bits & Pieces) 49024***

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**Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change, and when we are right, make us easy to live with. *(Peter Marshall)***

**It wasn’t until quite late in life that I discovered how easy it is to say “I don’t know.” *(W. Somerset Maugham, English writer)***

**Don’t be so humble – you are not that great. *(Golda Meir, Israeli Prime Minister)***

**When my child was six months old, I re-entered the work force. I was anxious about how I would juggle the morning chores -- feeding and dressing the baby and myself, packing a lunch and the baby's bag, dropping her off at day care and still getting myself to work on time. One frantic morning, I strapped the baby in the car seat and pulled out of the driveway ten minutes ahead of schedule. "Mommy is so efficient," I happily told her. My smugness disappeared a few block later when I looked down and realized I was still in my bathrobe. (*Bobbye Dones, in Reader's Digest)***

**This is the only necessary form of humility: the realization that difference is normal. *(Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)***

**A co-worker in our California office flew to Chicago during a blizzard. He spent hours driving to make his appointment at a suburban office complex. The parking lot was empty, so he pulled up next to the main entrance. As he was signing in, the receptionist looked outside and asked, “Before your meeting, could you move your car off the front lawn?” *(Russell G. Graham, in Reader's Digest)***

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**The way of humility, dear friends, is therefore not the way of renunciation but of courage. It is not the result of a defeat but the outcome of a victory of love over egoism and of grace over sin. *(Pope Benedict XVI)***

**Pope John XXIII once gave an audience to a delegation from the regiment with which he had served in World War I. As his former comrades prepared to kneel, the Pope said, "Please, everybody remain standing! You don't kneel before a non-commissioned officer." (*Janik Press Service)***

**Cardinal Giuseppe Sarto, later to become Pope St. Pius X, responded to someone who said he hoped Sarto would be elected Pope. “Come on, friend,” chuckled Sarto. “You must have a low opinion of the Holy Spirit.” *(Inside the Vatican, as it appeared in Catholic Digest, December, 1993)***

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“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”   
The root word that is translated “spirit" is more accurately and meaningfully translated “pride” – “poor in pride.” Jesus says, “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” But keep in mind that “heaven,” as Jesus uses the term, is not a place in the sky or a reward for after life. The word “heaven” comes from a Greek root that means “expanding.” *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 58)***

**Humility – a quality that disappears the moment you think you have it. *(E. D. Hulse, in Bashford Methodist Messenger)***

**My neighbor Joanne and I are film buffs. Joanne, however, objects to the high cost of refreshments sold by theaters and sometimes tries to sneak in a snack hidden in her large handbag. Once, Joanne popped a bag of microwave popcorn and stashed it in her pocketbook just before we set out. But as we approached the theater entrance, we were stopped by the ticket taker. “I'm sorry,” he told Joanne. “No outside food allowed.” “What makes you think I have food from outside?” Joanne hedged. “Well, ma'am,” he said, “your purse is steaming.” *(Lea Schaffner, in Reader's Digest)***

**No one can make you feel more humble than the repairman who discovers you've been trying to fix it yourself. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Knute Rockne in 1923 made all his Notre Dame football players take dancing lessons. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Theodore Roosevelt was known by those closest to him as a nature lover. It is said that after an evening of talk with his friend, William Beebe, the two would take a walk together. As they explored the vastness of the darkened universe, each marveled at the Milky Way, the big and little dippers and the enormity of the number of visible stars, realizing the minuteness of their stature compared to the universe. Finally, Teddy Roosevelt would break the silence and say, “Now, I think we are small enough. Let’s call it a night.” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in Speaker’s Sourcebook II, p. 197)***

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**He shows himself worthy, in that he confesses himself unworthy. *(St. Augustine)***

**It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels. *(St. Augustine)***

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**Humility is nothing but truth, and pride is nothing but lying. *(St. Vincent de Paul)***

An amazing example of humility is found in the person of Albert Schweitzer. With dignitaries awaiting the arrival of his flight, he was expected to disembark with the first-class passengers. However, as they soon discovered, he did not file out of the plane with the first-class passengers or even the second-class ones. Rather, he disembarked from the third-class seating, carrying his own suitcase. When asked why, he responded, “Because there was no fourth class.” *(Jam Brunette, in Portals of Prayer)*

**A friend and I stayed at a Chicago hotel while attending a convention. Since we weren't used to the big city, we were overly concerned about security. The first night we placed a chair against the door and stacked our luggage on it. To complete the barricade, we put the trash can on top. If an intruder tried to break in, we'd be sure to hear him. Around 1 a.m. there was a knock on the door. “Who is it?” my friend asked nervously. “Honey,” the woman on the other side yelled, “you left your key in the door.” *(Berniece B. Phillips, in Reader's Digest)***

**Humility is the sense you experience when you check yourself in a clothing store’s three-way mirror. *(Quote magazine)***

**Over the centuries this fabric (silk) has reigned undisputed as the Queen of Textiles. Yet even in this age of high technology, we must rely on an unassuming caterpillar to produce it. Scientists have managed to clone the silk-protein gene, but only as an exercise in basic research. So far, no silkworms, no silk. *(Nina Hyde, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A preacher said to his congregation, "I intended to speak on the theme of humility, but the crowd isn't nearly big enough. Therefore, I'm going to change my topic." *(Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips for Church Publications, p. 57)***

**A student once went to a rabbi and said, "There were men in the olden days who saw the face of God. Why don't they see it anymore?" The rabbi responded, "Because nowadays no one can stoop so low." To experience God we must make a place for emptiness, for the great unknown. This means admitting our ignorance and our limitations, which always requires humility. *(Dr. Larry Dossey, in The Healing Process, p. 33)***

**Native American wood carvers say the most honored figure on the vertical wooden statue is, contrary to popular belief, at the bottom; i.e.: it's the low man on the totem pole. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The really tough thing about true humility is you can’t brag about it. *(Gene Brown, in National Enquirer)***

**If your troubles are deep-seated and of long standing, try kneeling. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The true test of humility is whether you can say grace before eating crow. *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**When you get to be President, there are the honors, the 21-gun salutes, all those things. You have to remember it isn’t for you. It’s for the Presidency. *(Harry Truman)***

**If you're not humble, life will visit humbleness upon you. *(Mike Tyson)***

**All streams flow to the sea because it is lower than they are. Humility gives it its power. *(Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher)***

**I was attending a church function while my wife was at work. Striking up a conversation with a young woman, I discovered that she had the same unusual first name as my wife. I said it was the first time I'd ever met another person with that name. A while later the woman rose to leave the gathering. At the door, she turned toward me and called out for all to hear: “Don't forget to tell your wife you've found someone else.” *(James Burns, in Reader's Digest)***

**Don’t be so humble that you become humiliated by your own modesty and holding back. *(Denis Waitley)***

**Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. *(Rick Warren, in The Purpose-Driven Life: What On Earth Am I Here For?)***

**Of the nine presidents who owned slaves, only Washington freed his. He resisted efforts to make him a king and established the precedent that no one should serve more than two terms as president. He voluntarily yielded power. His enemy, George III, remarked in 1796, as Washington’s second term was coming to an end, “If George Washington goes back to his farm, he will be the greatest character of his age.” As George Will wrote, “the final component of Washington’s indispensability was the imperishable example he gave by proclaiming himself dispensable.” *(Stephen E. Ambrose, in Smithsonian magazine)***

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**We do not acquire humility. There is humility in us – only we humiliate ourselves before false gods. *(Simone Weil, French philosopher)***

**Humility is attentive patience. *(Simone Weil)***

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**Be humble, but not too humble. Don't be invisible. *(Pharrell Williams)***

**Without humility there can be no humanity. *(John Buchan)***

**I've been told I set a few records, but I really don't know what they are.  
*(Tiger Woods, U.S. Open golf champion)***

**First man: “What the world needs is more exceptionally intelligent people who are also humble.” Second man: “I suppose you're right. There's not a lot of us left.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Your worst humiliation is only someone else's momentary entertainment. *(Karen Crockett)***

**I feel coming on a strange disease – humility. *(Frank Lloyd Wright)***

**Baseball: You need the attitude of Carl Yastremski. In 1979, after the Boston Red Sox star collected his 3,000th hit, a reporter asked, “Hey, Yaz, aren’t you afraid all this attention will go to your head?” “Well,” Yastremski said, “in my career I’ve been up to bat over ten thousand times. That means I’ve been unsuccessful over seven thousand times. That fact alone keeps me from getting a swelled head.” *(Roger von Oech)***

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