

SUBJECT: HUMILITY and PRIDE/SELF-EXALTATION

TEXT: Luke 14:11. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

OBJECTIVE: The end result of living one’s life in humility and trust in God is totally opposite of the one who lives his life in self-sufficiency and pride. This handout will contrast these truths in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the life of Lucifer/Satan/the devil.

There are natural laws and there are spiritual laws. In the natural law of gravity, we know that when something goes up, it must come down. So, it is in the spiritual law, when someone lifts their own self up, they will fall. And, when one humbles their self, they will rise. That is a spiritual law that God has set in motion. Luke 14:11, “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

JESUS CHRIST: THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY

As Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ radiated and exemplified what true and perfect humility looks like. We find from His example that humility is not weak, nor timid; it is not bashful and it has within it no shame.

Jesus showed us what true humility looks like as He submitted to His Father, resisted His enemies, and ministered to fallen humanity. We can see the humility of Christ has in it supreme dignity and distinction. The glory of Jesus’ humility exalts Him above all others.

WE SEE JESUS HUMBLING HIMSELF ON MANY LEVELS

He humbled Himself when He became a man
He humbled Himself to take on the form of a servant
He humbled Himself by not taking to Himself outward beauty
He humbled Himself when He submitted to the Father’s will
He humbled Himself when He did not defend Himself
He humbled Himself by putting the needs of others first
He humbled Himself by not coming down from the cross

And, as a result of His humility, the Father, as promised, rewards His Son by exalting Him. Psalm 21 tells us that God has made Him (Jesus) most blessed forever.

Psalm 21:1 – 6

The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD, and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! Thou hast given him his heart’s desire, and hast not withheld the request of his lips. For thou preventest (meetest) him with the blessing of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days forever and ever. His glory is great in thy salvation: honor and majesty hast thou laid upon him. For thou hast made him most blessed forever; thou has made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.

This principle is beautifully illustrated in Philippians 2:3 – 11. In this passage, Jesus humbles Himself, and as a result is exalted by His Father.

Philippians 2:3 – 8. Jesus Humbles Himself.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus went from the place of equality with the Father to the place of being crucified as a criminal upon a cross.

From Philippians 2, we see Jesus humbling Himself over and over, again:

1. **JESUS EMPTIED HIMSELF.** He became totally dependent upon His Father. (Compare John 5:19, 30; 6:38; 7:28; 8:28, 42; 14:10, 24)
2. **JESUS TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT.** The Lord of All became as a Man, the Servant of God. (Compare Hebrews 1:13, 14)
3. **JESUS WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN.** Jesus took upon Him flesh and blood. (Compare Hebrews 2:9, 14 – 17)
4. **JESUS WAS FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN.** Jesus' true identity as God could not be observed with the natural physical eye. In other words, no one could tell by any outward sign of his physical body that He was the Son of God. (Compare Matthew 16:13 – 17; John 4:25, 26)
5. **JESUS WAS A HUMBLE MAN.** Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Compare John 13: 2 – 14)
6. **JESUS DIED.** Jesus humbled Himself by taking upon Him the guilt, the shame, and the payment of our sins. (Compare Romans 5:6).
7. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS.** Jesus' death was a death of total humiliation and shame. (Compare Luke 23:33, 34)

THEREFORE, JESUS WAS EXALTED BY HIS FATHER

Philippians 2:9 – 11

Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. GOD HIGHLY EXALTED HIM. Compare Ephesians 1:20 – 23.
2. GOD GAVE JESUS A NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME.
3. GOD ORDAINED THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW.
4. GOD ORDAINED THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

LUCIFER, NOW SATAN, THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF PRIDE and ITS DOWNFALL

In contrast to the Lord Jesus Christ, we see Lucifer/Satan who instead of yielding to the will of the Father and being satisfied in the blessings that God had granted to him he sought to exalt himself, and, as a result, he fell.

GOD CREATED LUCIFER AS A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE

This is recorded for us in **Ezekiel 28:12 – 15**.

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Thou has been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold; the workmanship of thy timbrels and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou was created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covered, and I have set thee so; thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

LUCIFER EXALTS HIMSELF, AND FALLS

Isaiah 14:12 – 15

How are thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, who didst weaken the nations! For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

WE SEE LUCIFER FALLING ON MANY LEVELS

When he was cast out of heaven
 When he became a serpent
 When his name was changed to devil/Satan
 When he was crushed by the heel of Jesus Christ on Calvary
 When he was defeated by the Risen Christ on resurrection morning
 When he will be bound for 1000 years in the Bottomless Pit
 When he will be cast into the Lake of Fire, forever

Ezekiel 28:16, 17

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned, therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness; I will cast thee to the ground. I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Luke 10:18

And He (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Revelation 20:1 – 3, 10

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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