

Humble Yourself

Ponder: Tooting your own horn

Scripture: “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11, NKJV).

Jesus knew the Scriptures like no one else before or since. His parable of the wedding feast (Luke 14:7-14) uses an illustration remarkably similar to one King Solomon used to make an identical point: “Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great: For it is better that he say to you, ‘Come up here,’ than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince . . .” (Proverbs 25:6-7).

If you’ll permit me to paraphrase: Don’t toot your own horn! In a popular hymn, we acknowledge our God as “the great I Am.” Another is titled “How Great Thou Art.” But let us never combine those into a corrupt new song, “How great I am”!

The fleshly mind craves recognition and takes whatever steps it deems necessary to receive it. Sometimes it’s so obvious it would be comical if it weren’t so nauseating! The Pharisees did it with their ostentatious dress and excessively long public prayers. We may not use those exact methods, but the root cause (pride) remains the same.

Like Solomon, Jesus taught us to humble ourselves. If we are to be exalted, let someone else do it. Above all, strive to be pleasing to God. We have His promise that He will exalt and reward us. “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6). Who knows if anyone else will be around to witness it? Then again, who cares? The Lord and His angels will see! The redeemed in Heaven will see! Bottom line, that’s all that really matters.

Song: “Humble Yourself In The Sight Of The Lord”

Prayer: Father, You are worthy of all praise and glory. Help us not to concern ourselves with being exalted in the view of other people. May we rest in the assurance that You will exalt us in due time if we will simply humble ourselves under Your mighty hand. In Jesus’ name, Amen.