Growing In Littleness (Philippians 2:3)

Tony Mauck · Luke 14:7–11

INTRODUCTION

- Is it not true? Though you were little in your own eyes, you were made head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed you king over Israel.
- Saul, you have made a journey, and it has not been in the right direction.
- When Saul was little in his own eyes, God was big.

1 Humility Comes Before Honor

Proverbs 15:33; Luke 14:7–11

- The fear of the Lord is instruction and wisdom and humility comes before honor.
- When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor.
- So when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, friend, move up higher.
- For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.

2 The Recipe for Too Lofty Thoughts of Oneself

- Do we have too big of a conception of ourselves that may then cause us to not have a proper conception of how large God should be in our thinking?
- It was the power that he wielded. Nobody in Israel wielded power like King Saul.
- So many people, their estimate of themselves is tied largely to the things that they have.
- So often we begin believing the press about ourselves. When others tell us how wonderful we are.
- One can get carried away with himself or herself on the basis of spiritual achievement.

3 Life Here Is Not a Permanent Condition

Psalm 103:14

- Here is a guy who is king over a powerful and growing empire that will reach its zenith during the days of Solomon. But his time was temporary.
- He knows our frame. He is mindful that we are but dust. Life here is not a permanent condition.
- Whatever you have become, however, others regard you, whatever they think and say about you, no matter what you think of yourself, your time here is quite temporary.

4 The Standard for Measurement Is Not Other Men

1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Corinthians 4:5–7

- The standard is not what other people achieve or don't achieve and what I achieve. The standard is God.
- He would see himself as the chief of sinners, according to 1 Timothy chapter 1 and verse 15.
- But even he is not the standard. And he did not see himself as the standard, but Christ as the standard.
- We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus as Lord and ourselves as bond servants for his sake.

5 The Greater Use of Talents and Endowments

- The greater use of talents and endowments is to advance the Lord's cause on this earth.
- What does that count in the great by and by? If we have not employed ourselves in the Lord's work.

6 Humility Requires Cultivation

Philippians 2:3–4; Philippians 2:5–9

- He is admonishing his audience and admonishing us to work on the development of a right view of self.
- As Paul would say in Philippians chapter 2, esteem others better than yourselves.
- Do not merely look upon your own interests, but also the interests of others.
- In his self-sacrifice, in the extent of his descent, even death on the cross. And then what? God has highly exalted him.
- He who humbled himself to the uttermost was exalted to the uttermost.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you escaped the prospect of God's wrath by humbling yourselves before the King of kings and accepting his wonderful harness for your life and his provisions?

MY NOTES