

Short Talk

(SHT174)

Pride and Humility

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “Pride and Humility”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people to humble themselves before God when they pray, rather than approaching Him with pride, so that they can be in right relationship with Him.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Prayer, Pride, Humility, Justification, Self-Righteousness
- Biblical references:** Luke 18:9-14
- Lectionary:** Year C – The last Sunday after Trinity
- Before the service:** You will need 2 volunteers who can read! Give them their scripts (see Appendix 1) before the service and explain what you want them to do.
- Props:** A small table or chair that can be stood upon and scripts for your 2 volunteers. Remember to have appropriate microphones available if your situation needs them.

When we come to Father God to pray, I wonder if we ever try to impress Him with the good things that we do.

- I wonder if we ever think that our relationship with Father God is great because of our good deeds.

Let's see what Jesus had to say about that as we watch a story He once told people.

- So if my 2 volunteers could come forward please. *(2 volunteers come forward N1 & N2)*

Our first volunteer we will call “Pride,” *(N1 takes a bow)* and our second volunteer we will call “Humility.” *(N2 takes a bow)*

- Let's hear their prayer:

(N1 climbs up onto a chair or small table and stands looking up to heaven, and N2 kneels with their head down facing the floor. N1 speaks in a pompous voice and N2 speaks in a contrite voice)

Pride: Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people.

- I am not a robber who steals from other people.
- I am not an evildoer, doing things that I know are wrong.
- I don't break my marriage promise like other people do.
- I am not like this sinful person over there who I know cheats other people out of money.
- I fast twice a week.
- I give away a tenth of all that I get. *(N1 freezes looking up to heaven while N2 speaks)*

Humility: *(Speaks with head down, so will need amplification)*

- God, have mercy on me, a sinner. *(N2 freezes looking down)*

Jesus said that one of these people was in right relationship with God after they had prayed.

- Who thinks that "Pride" *(point at N1)* was in right relationship with God after they had prayed? *(Receive responses)*
- Who thinks that "Humility" *(point at N2)* was in right relationship with God after they had prayed? *(Receive responses)*
- That's right; it was "Humility" wasn't it?

You see "Pride" was essentially saying to God: "Look at me, look at how good I am. I don't really need you God because I am trusting in my own goodness."

- On the other hand, "Humility" was essentially saying to God: "I know that I mess up and do wrong things. I really need You God. I am trusting in You."

Now if you and I want to be in right relationship with Father God, then we need to be willing to humble ourselves, admit that we have messed up and then ask Him for His mercy.

- When we do that, we discover that Father God draws close to us.
- He forgives us for where we have messed up because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, and He welcomes us with open arms into His presence.
- He lifts us up. *(Hold out your hand to N2 and draw them to a standing position)*

But if we choose to stand on a mountain of pride, trusting in our own goodness, it is very hard to have a relationship with God because we don't recognise that we need Him.

So today, ask yourself this question:

- "If I want to be in right relationship with God, am I trusting in my own goodness or in His goodness when I pray?"

Appendix 1 – Dramatized Luke 18:9-14

Props: Chair or small table

Cast: 2 volunteers; one called “Pride” and the other called “Humility”

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(N1 climbs up onto a chair or small table and stands looking up to heaven, and N2 kneels with their head down facing the floor. N1 speaks in a pompous voice and N2 speaks in a contrite voice)

Pride: Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people.

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- I fast twice a week.
- I give away a tenth of all that I get. *(N1 freezes looking up to heaven while N2 speaks)*

Humility: *(Speaks with head down, so will need amplification)*

- God, have mercy on me, a sinner. *(N2 freezes looking down)*