

The Antidote to the Great I AM – Humility

How do we head towards the antidote?

1. You have to see the value of it?

Matthew 18:1–4 ¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Luke describes the same even as ... “An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.” (Luke 9:46)

...

² He (Jesus) called a little child and had him stand among them.

Hey little Themda, come over here.

³ And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you **CHANGE** and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Therefore, whoever **HUMBLES HIMSELF** like this child is the **GREATEST** in the kingdom of heaven.

They are arguing about who is the greatest.

- Jesus calls a little child over and says...
- Unless you **CHANGE** and become like this Little Dude.
- You will **NEVER ENTER** the Kingdom of Heaven.

They are talking about who is the greatest in the kingdom.

- He is talking about whether they are even in it.

What are Little Children like?

- DEPENTDANT!
- From the day that they arrive ...
- ...

Unless you **CHANGE** and become like them and depend on my Father.

- The way that these little guys depend on Mom and Dad.
- Unless you **CHANGE** and Develop that kind of Heart
- You will never even Enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Why? Why not?

Isaiah 66:2 "This is the one I **ESTEEM** ...

- This is the one I hold in high regards, the one I respect and honor ...

Who would that be?

- Who does God hold in high regards?
- The religious, the church goer?
- The educated? The clever?
- The self-made man or woman?
- The one who stands up for there on rights?

No, "This is the one I **ESTEEM** he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word."

He who is Humble and Contrite in Spirit.

- And Trembles at my Word.

What does that mean?

- There is a sensitivity to the word.
- There is a broken and contrite spirit.
- A self awareness of I am a sinner, in desperate need of the grace of God.
- ...

I have had a number of "I get it" moments

- Throughout my Christian life.

God is not looking for moments like that.

- He wants us to live a life like that.

A life of humility. A life of, I desperately need you ...

- I need you to be the all satisfying treasure of my soul.
- For I know that in your presence there is fullness of joy and at your right hand there are pleasures forever more?

I need you to guide me in every decision that I make.

- In every word that I say ...

- ...

What do you value?

- Prestige, comfort, what others think ...
- Significance? Do I matter? Do I make a difference?

Go through different seasons in life.

- Remember in 30's asked? Is this it?
- ...

As the year's role by God is more interested in your level of humility.

- Than anything else.

We see it passage after passage in the Scriptures.

Isaiah 57:15 "... this is what the high and lofty One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place ...

Far beyond your solar system and your time.

BUT also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to [the reason he wants to live with the contrite and lowly in spirit is to ...] **revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."**

So, he lives in high and holy places.

- But, also with him who his humble and contrite in Spirit.

Luke 18:10–14 ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

Aka ... I do Everything Right!

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.

Why?

- He possessed the very thing that God esteems, which is **humility**.

Humility IS the way to God's heart.

- The proud find that door closed.
- But those who demonstrate and seek and pursue humility ...
- Are welcomed there again and again.

The Bible is CLEAR!

- Humility is not a Secondary Quality.
- It is not a Nice to Have.
- Look at Him, that is so Sweet, he is so Humble.

It is not Something that we need to Work on every Now and Then.

- It is the FUNDEMENTAL of all FUNDEMENTALS.

THINK ABOUT IT

You can be Successful with God Without

- Being highly Intelligent.
- Without having a great job.
- Without being super talented.
- Without being Good Looking.

BUT you **CANNOT** be Successful **WITH GOD** without Humility.

- As a matter of Fact...
- You cannot even Enter the Kingdom without Humility.

2. You have to Sober up

Romans 12:3³ ... I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought ...

- But rather think of yourself with sober judgment.

What does someone who think of themselves with sober judgment look like?

- What are some signs of sobriety?

- a) Sober people live in vital union with Jesus
 - They cannot get enough of Jesus.
 - They know that Jesus is the all satisfying treasure of the universe.
 - Therefore they joyfully submit to his rule and reign and they ...
 - Constantly seek his presence and guidance and direction for their lives.

- b) Sober people know that they cannot trust their own hearts for ...
 - They know that ...
 - “The heart is deceitful above all things ...” (Jeremiah 17:9)
 - Therefore, they are constantly asking others, “What do you see?”

- c) Sober people seek lots of advice/ council.

They know that “He who walks with the wise grows wise ...” Proverbs 13:20

 - They know their limitation and need for wisdom.
 - So their notepad is always out.
 - They are always asking good questions.
 - You are constantly asking questions.
 - The notepad is always out.

- d) Sober people are in a constant pursuit to seek to understand ...
 - When they are faced with different views to that of their own
 - Because they know that they have a very limited perspective.

- e) Sober people treat others with much grace.
 - Because they know what it is like to be a sinner ...
 - Standing in desperate need of mercy.

3. You have to Move into the Light

Proverbs 28:13 “Whoever conceals ^[hides, cover up] their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses ^[who brings it into the light] and renounces them ^[confronts them and deals with them] finds mercy.”

There is nothing as humbling as bringing your sin into the light.

- There is nothing as humbling as saying, this is who I am ...
- Or, this is what I thought ...
- Or, this is what I have done or what I was tempted to do.

With no vagueness or dismissive descriptions like ...

- I sometimes, sort of battle with or impurity.
- I don't have time with God as regularly as I should or
- ...

There is very little light in that kind of description.

Light is, this is what I have done ...

- I was watching TV, flipping through the channels.
- And in my heart I decided that I want to watch impure things.
- And that nothing was going to stop me until I gratified my self- centered desires.
- That is what I decided in my Heart and I want to be open about it.
- That is who I am.

It is not... I am not in my bible as much as I should be.

- It is saying, I am arrogant.

Get into the Light.

- I think God has been prompting, nudging a number of us.
- Be open.

Been things that you have carried in your heart for even years.

- Get open.
- Get into the light.
- And let the Chips fall where they may.

I am going to do my job.

- Humble myself.
- This is who I am.
- This is the real me.
- This is what is going on in my life.

And if you so choose God, you may lift me up.

- And if you do that would be great.
- But even if you don't I will be at peace.
- Because I know that I am close to your heart
- For you dwell with the Humble.

4. You have to Empty yourself out.

Philippians 2:5–8 ⁵ ... have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Jesus was equal to God the Father in all of his Attributes.

- He was the Radiance of the Father's Glory.
- The exact representation of his being.
- Infinite and Boundless in all of his Perfections.

Decided Made Himself Nothing. NOTHING!

- Made Nothing = *Keneo* = "Emptied himself"
- To Empty yourself out.
- To Render yourself void.

Jesus said that "although I receive the Praise and Glory from Heaven."

- I am going to Render myself Void.
- I am going to Empty myself out.
- I am going to make myself NOTHING!

So that when there is Nothing inside of me.

- God can Enter me and he can use me
- In whatever way, he sees fit.
- To his Glory.

Making yourself nothing, emptying yourself out!

- That does not exactly fall Under the Top 10 things we want to do.
- Yet, that is the path towards humility.

Cannot help someone when their cup is full.

It is the same in our relationship with God.

- If your cup is full you are not going to get anywhere with God.
- You have to empty your cup.
- You have to make yourself nothing.

You have to surrender and come to the realization ...

- That there is but one great I am and it is not you.

I think a number of us do not want to let go.

- You are only partially in.
- You are giving God little bits and pieces of your life and your soul.
- You have to let go, you have to humble yourself and empty yourself out ...

Closing ...