

A Humble Faith in God

Children's Chat: Unique

Joke: A child devoted an entire rainy day to a drawing he was doing in multi-color. His Mom asked him "Son, what are you drawing?" "God," he said. She said "don't be silly, nobody knows what God looks like." Without skipping a beat he said, "they will when I' done".

Today we are going to talk about Humility and Faith. Can any of you tell me what Humility means? There are a lot of definitions of Humility, one of my favorites goes like this. To be humble is to know that no one is better than or less than anyone, we are all simply unique. Now to be humble before God is a bit different. God is greater than us, it is a good thing too because without God we would have a hard time finding any joy or purpose in life. Having faith in God actually is the purest form of humility, we are saying I know that I don't know, but I do know, God, that you know. God will take us places that don't seem to make much sense, like school, I know I'd much rather be on the playground. But when I graduated high school (by the grace of God) I was thankful for what I learned. A lot of what God wants us to do doesn't make sense until it's done. Then it makes more sense than any plan we could have made. Let's get quiet on the inside and quiet on the outside. Let us pray!

Dear God,

Please remind us how great we all are, please remind us that you have blessed every living being with an equal measure of greatness. Please remind us that, that greatness is unique to the person that has it.

Please remind us of the power that faith in you holds. Thanks for everything, we love you God and all that you are! In Jesus name, Amen.

Think about what faith means to you and have blessed day with Molly!

Message: A Humble Faith in God

God takes us places that don't make much sense at first. I can imagine being Naaman. He was an accomplished General who was used to giving orders, rarely receiving them, he definitely wasn't used to receiving them from servants. In a raiding party his army captured an Israelite. She noticed he had a terrible skin condition and told his wife that the prophet of Samaria (Elisha) could save him. Naaman then went to the king, the only man he took orders from and asked if he could go be healed. The King said yes, and wrote a letter to the king of Israel. I can only imagine, Naaman probably thought you mean I have to march right to the enemy and ask their leader for permission to be healed by a prophet in his land. When he got there it seemed his worries were confirmed. The King of Israel became so irate that he ripped his robes to pieces. Do you know how angry you have to be to rip your clothes to shreds? It's a serious question. When it seemed all hope was lost, the prophet Elisha heard about this and wrote a letter to the king. He asked the king why he was so angry, he told him to send Naaman to him so he may prove to him that there is a prophet in Israel.

Naaman rode to Elisha, when he got there a servant answered the door. He told Naaman to go to the river Jordan and wash 7 times, and on the 7th time he would be healed. I don't know if you know anything about the Jordan especially at that time, but it was disgusting, much

like the river we here in Utah call the Jordan. In fact it was much more disgusting. He said we have rivers that are much cleaner back in Aram and that way at least I'll be clean. He was furious and he marched off. The message version of the bible says he was as mad as a hornet. I think he was getting sick of servants telling him what to do. Then God sends more servants to set him right. His servants ask him, if Elisha told you to do something heroic would you not have done it? What's the harm in trying this simple washing. In that day and age a general obeying orders from an enemy prophet was rare, a general obeying orders from his servants let alone a servant of an enemy prophet was unheard of. He humbled himself to do what they asked of him. The bible makes it seem like he was losing faith though. He had faith to begin with, he marched a retinue into enemy territory to be healed by a prophet he had never met. That's faith. But as situation and after situation didn't go his way he began to lose patience, as we all do at times. Just as he was about to march away, God used a servant to convince him that it was worth a try. After 7 times in the Jordan the man came up with skin as soft as Conrad's.

God takes us places that don't make sense to us, so that he can make sense of us. He takes us to these places to fulfill things he wants us to fulfill. I can tell you right now, I did not want to go to jail. Even for the first part of my stay in that lovely facility I did not want to be there. But, as I reconnected with God, he revealed to me the reason he let me go there. That reason was to become closer to him and to learn what he wanted for me. I never would have gotten it, if I wasn't humbled by the judicial system, if I still thought my way was the right way. My best thinking landed me in jail. God's best thinking landed me in college, going to school to learn to be his voice on this planet. But I wouldn't be where I am if I didn't humble myself by saying, God, I don't know, but

you know, please show me the way.

God is always there for us, but I've learned he wants us to show our faith in him, before he fulfills his plans for us. The general saw all of his plans going awry. The prophet wouldn't even come out to meet him, he thought it was over, he'd have to deal with his disease forever. In a desperate act, he literally took a plunge of faith. No, my mistake he took 7 plunges of faith. When he arose out of the water the seventh time he was healed.

It is fascinating to me that we hear time and time again that people have magnificent God experiences when they are at their most desperate. This leads many of us to believe that God only comes to us when we are desperate or when we need him. I'm here to tell you, that is incorrect. We always need God. I think we tend to turn to God when we are desperate because that's when we feel we need him. When things are going good we think, "I've got this, God has bigger problems to deal with than my flat tire". When we truly look at it though, are we really fully and truly responsible for any good thing that has happened to us? I don't know about you but I didn't teach myself to talk or walk or do anything honestly. It all boils down to God. If we can humble ourselves to God, he will show his favor in our lives good times or bad. In all honesty, when we are having good times his favor is glaring right in front of our faces. We should thank him for every moment.

This story is interesting because God healed an enemy to his chosen people. It reminds me of what Jesus said, "love your enemy". God will bless and make an example of people of whom we least expect, I mean look at me. When Jesus healed the 10, the 9 that were insiders - leading us to believe they were Hebrews- they went on their merry way. When the Samaritan (an outsider) realized he had been

healed, he humbled himself before God, ran back to Jesus shouting praises of gratitude and knelt before him. It says he was healed by his faith. The scripture doesn't say what became of the 9. I'd like to believe the other 9 stayed healed as well, as a testimony to God's, mercy, love and forgiveness.

Humility is a lifestyle that God wants us to live. One of the reasons He gave us His son was to be an example of humility in its highest degree. Jesus gave his life for us, so that we may be free, and to show us how much God loves us. That is humility, not only did he humble himself to his father, but in a sense he humbled himself to us. All we have to do is love everyone, including ourselves the way God loves us. Yes everyone, even the homeless guy on the street that yells at you every time you walk by. Buy him a meal, give him a hug, and have decent conversation with him and see if he ever yells at you again. We all want love and we all deserve love. God loves us no matter what we've done, the question is are we humble enough to receive that love? When we receive God's love we learn to love ourselves, in turn we learn to love everyone else! Thank you and God bless!

Benediction:

Dear God,

As we go about our week, please remind us what it means to be humble. Humble to our peers, and humble to you God. For we know we can never fully receive your favor until we humble ourselves to you God. Once we humble ourselves to you as children to a father, we can begin to expect unlimited blessings and favor as a child does food. Please bless and keep everyone in this Church always, As well as every living being outside! Thank you God for everything! We love you God and all that you are! In Jesus name we pray! Amen!