



Lesson 13: Humility

Psalm 131 (The Message)

- ¹ **131** GOD, I'm not trying to rule the roost,
 I don't want to be king of the mountain.
 I haven't meddled where I have no business
 or fantasized grandiose plans.
- ² I've kept my feet on the ground,
 I've cultivated a quiet heart.
 Like a baby content in its mother's arms,
 my soul is a baby content.
- ³ Wait, Israel, for GOD. Wait with hope.
 Hope now; hope always!

Psalm 131 is a maintenance psalm. It is needed to help prune our faith just like in gardening; it gets rid of that which looks good to those who don't know any better and reduces the distance between our hearts and their roots in God.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:1-2)

I. Pruning Ambition

"God, I'm not trying to rule the roost, I don't want to be king of the mountain. I haven't meddled where I have no business or fantasized grandiose plans. I've kept my feet on the ground, I've cultivated a quiet heart."

In every century and culture there have always been various and different stumbling blocks for the road of faith keeping us from discipleship. In our civilization especially in America we have ambition. Our culture rewards and encourages ambition without qualification. It is difficult to recognize pride as a sin when it is held up on every side as a virtue, seen as something profitable and rewarding.

However, if our ambitions are for the prize and high calling that is in Christ Jesus we will live in terms creation set by God. Being a Christian means accepting those terms of creation, accepting God as our maker and Redeemer, and growing day by day into that glorious creature that looks like Christ, developing joy, experiencing love, and maturing in peace.

II. *Being Content As A Child*

So, if we are not meant to be proud, arrogant persons, what are we to be? Mousy, cringing, insecure ones? Well, not quite. Having realized the dangers of pride, the sin of thinking too much of ourselves, we are suddenly in danger of the other mistake, thinking too little of ourselves.

And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them. (Mark 10:14-16)

Jesus gave us the picture of the child as a model for Christian faith not because of a child's helplessness but because of their willingness to be led, to be taught, to be blessed.

III. *The Plain Way*

Charles Spurgeon when preaching this psalm said, "this is one of the shortest Psalms to read, but one of the longest to learn." The road we travel in the way of faith is filled with many emergencies, problems, and challenges. We wish to take things into our own hands and try master whatever is front of us, telling God I don't need you. At the next turn we are overwhelmed and panicked wanting God to rescue us from the problem. We can alternately be rebellious runaways and whining babies. But there is another way, the way of quiet Christian humility. We need pruning to get there!