



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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In Luke 18, Jesus tells a parable where a prideful pharisee prayed out to the Father, thanking the Lord that he was not like the unjust men. On the other side of the coin, a humble and repentant tax collector asked the Lord for forgiveness. Of the two of them, the tax collector was justified. In Matthew 7, Jesus expresses that those who do His works in vain but don't know him will not receive salvation. In Mark 12, Jesus warns his disciples to beware of the prideful scribes who pray long prayers to make themselves seem genuine. In James 4, we are instructed to humble ourselves before the Lord. Romans 12. John 3. The list goes on.

The message of humility that Matthew 6 surrounds is echoed throughout the New Testament, and the impact that a humble heart has is profound. But what does that actually look like? How can we shape ourselves to be the humble servants that He asks us to be? While these questions can be difficult to wrap our minds around and even harder to live out once we have, I want to invite you to wrestle with them.

Like many things, the answer to these questions ultimately centers around the Gospel story. We have sinned. We are broken. We have severed the connection with our Creator and it is completely out of our power and control to repair that relationship. However, it is not out of His power. He sent His Son to pay for our failures, for our sins, for every time that we have fallen short. When we truly understand what God did for us, it shifts our perspective on life. Instead of doing things to please people, we start trying to live in a way that pleases God—and that is not in order to gain salvation, but rather because we already have that secured, and we're thankful. We're thankful for what He has done. That understanding, the understanding that it is not about us, is what leads to humility.

For me personally, I had to work through this a couple of years ago when I began leading worship. I had to work through the tension I felt as I was singing and playing the instrument I love in front of a congregation. At first, I treated those worship sets almost as a performance. I would feel good about myself when I thought I played well and get really frustrated when I didn't. I wanted people to see me as a person who was close to Jesus without actually pursuing being close to Him. I had to deal with my own pride. As I worked through this and the Lord patiently corrected me, He changed my heart. And eventually I learned that we don't worship him because we want to show the world that we are good children. We worship God because of how good of a father He is.

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*This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at [votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)*