A State of Humility

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In 2nd Samuel, there is a story that Nathan, a prophet of God, is sent to tell King David. Nathan was to tell the story to King David because God was displeased with something that he had done. This story is what led King David to write Psalms 51 that we are all very familiar with. It is a very sobering psalm written by a man after God's own heart.

Prior to Nathan going to King David with this story, we know that King David saw and wanted for himself Bathsheba, who was married to Uriah, one of his soldiers. King David desired Bathsheba and took her to himself, even though he knew he was wrong. King David had many wives that he could have picked from, or sought another single woman not spoken for by another man, but he did not. This was done while Uriah was away on the battlefield fighting for King David.

And to make matters worse, Bathsheba became pregnant by King David. King David needed to cover up the pregnancy, so he brought Uriah home from the battle so that he could sleep with Bathsheba and pass the child off as his own. But Uriah, being a faithful soldier, would not sleep with Bathsheba while the other men were still away fighting. He felt that he, too, should be on the battlefield.

When this attempt by King David failed, King David sent Uriah back and made sure his commander put him where the most fighting was to ensure his death. King David's plan worked, and Uriah was killed.

So, let's turn over now to 2 Samuel 12:1 to see what God sent Nathan to say to King David.

2 Samuel 12:1—Then the Eternal sent Nathan to David, and he came to him, and he said to him, There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he had brought up and nourished, and it grew up together with him and his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom. It was like a daughter to him.

There is a very distinct difference between these two men. One man is rich, and one man is poor. The rich man is obviously exceedingly rich and wanting for nothing. This is King David. The poor man who had nothing but a lamb is Uriah, and the lamb is Bathsheba, whom he cherishes and loves. The story describes a great attachment Uriah has for Bathsheba, and it describes a great love as well.

And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the traveler who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him. The rich man is showing how self-centered and selfish he is. He cannot take from his own flock, but instead he will steal from the poor man. Nathan is describing how King David took Bathsheba, who did not belong to him. She belonged to Uriah.

So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, As the Eternal lives, the man who has done this shall surely die, and he shall restore four-fold for the lamb, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. At this point, King David did not understand the story was about him yet. However, King David could see the wrong in the actions of the rich man against the poor man and felt justice should be done. He is about to find out he is the rich man in the story.

Then Nathan said to David, You are the man. Thus says the Eternal God, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. David is confronted with the fact that he is the rich man and he did the evil. Nathan may be delivering the message to him, but he knows it is God telling him. I am sure this got King David's attention. God reminds King David He is in charge, and He is the one who anointed him and saved him from Saul killing him. David would have nothing if God had not given it to him. All belongs to God.

I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been so little, I also would have given you much more. King David, while a man after God's own heart, was still flesh and blood and struggled with human nature just like we do. In this situation, King David gave in to his human nature. He should have been satisfied with what God had given him and not rely on himself.

We should always be satisfied with what God has given us. He is molding and fashioning us to be in Elohim. That means God does what is ever best for us, and we should find satisfaction in that stage of life.

Dropping now down to **verse 13—So David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Eternal**. This is why King David was a man after God's own heart. As soon as God sent the prophet Nathan to him to correct him, he accepted it and took accountability for it. He didn't make excuses. He didn't try to justify. He took complete responsibility for his actions and admitted the sin was his and it was against God Almighty.

When we see our sins, we should take responsibility for our wrong choice and repent immediately. When we sin so against God, we need to make it right.

And Nathan said to David, The Eternal also has put away your sin. You shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Eternal to blaspheme, the child who is born to you shall surely die. Then Nathan departed to his house. God forgave David and remembered his sin no more, but He did let him know there were consequences for his actions of sin.

This happens to us, too. We can see our sins, we repent of our sins, but sometimes there are consequences for it. This does not mean that God does not love us. God does what is best for us, for our molding and our fashioning, for our specific place in the temple of God, just like King David has a specific place in the temple of God.

In Psalms 51, we see just how repentant David was and how he felt about his own sin against God, and that he understood how repentance works. King David came to understand from this situation exactly what God wants from us.

Let's turn over now to **Psalms 51:1—Have mercy upon me, O God; according to Your loving kindness, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions**. God, in His mercy, will forgive us of our sins if we ask him to. That means that we are telling God we know we sinned and acknowledging He is right and we are wrong. Our responsibility is then to try not to commit that sin again. But we know that may not always be the case. We are steeped in human nature too, and some struggles are hard, but we keep on trying not to do it again.

When King David said, "according to the multitude of Your mercies," think of how many times we have asked God to forgive us. Multiple times. And multiple times God forgives us if our hearts are right with Him. And then God will blot out our transgressions, and they will be erased from God's memory; He holds nothing against us.

Dropping down to **verse 17**, King David reveals what God desires of us in this process. **My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise**. Psalms 51:17 is describing humility, a humble heart. It is describing a heart that God will not despise, or in other words, a heart that God loves, prefers, or desires for us to have. Once we have been forgiven of our sins, we need to ask God for this type of heart, this type of spirit so we can continue to grow spiritually.

A contrite heart is the only type of heart that is willing to see self clearly. The only way to have a humble heart is to repent of sin, of pride in our life. In order to have a contrite heart, we must sacrifice self, our selfishness, our human nature – "lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."

God will not dwell in a heart filled with pride. Pride is where sin begins. God will not dwell in sin. When we sin, we are not acting in accordance with God, and when we do, we are basically saying that we do not need God or God's ways.

Pride is a stumbling block. It encourages someone to be filled with their own self-worth, thinking that they are better than anyone else, including what God tells us. God's instructions are clear and concise. Those with God's spirit should be able to see and understand when pride comes in. If we do not nip it in the bud when we see it, we will become weakened and stop fighting it.

A contrite spirit is a state of deep remorse, feeling deep regret of going against God. Nobody likes to feel this way, but we need to remind ourselves this is a good thing. It shows that we can see our sin and we hate it. A contrite heart is a heart of humility and will sincerely repent of sin. If we have a contrite spirit, it will lead to a complete willingness to submit to God's will and to seek to be at one with Him.

Feeling sorry for what we do is not enough. We must want to change who we are and remove human nature from us. It's embracing the new man that comes up from the water at the time of baptism. When

we think of a contrite heart or spirit, we need to remember what it is. It is recognizing we have fallen short of what God expects of us, feeling sorry for what we have done, and not wanting to offend God. It is a willingness to yield to the process God placed before us without hesitation, putting God first. It is wanting to be forgiven of our sins and to always be at one with God. It is learning to draw closer to God so that we can reject the sin that so easily ensnares us, asking God for the strength to overcome what we are.

We need to remember to grow in the holy spirit. We cannot be cut off from it. We must rely on God and not our selfish pride. We must always learn to be in a state of humility. The title of today's sermon is *A State of Humility*.

As we move forward on this subject today, and we hear the term humility, state of humility, I want us to think about what condition we are in at a specific time. The condition we're talking about is humility, and the specific time is in our lives every day. In other words, we should always be in a state of humility.

Someone with humility is someone free from pride or arrogance. They are not puffed up or filled with sin. It is a state of being unleavened, being without sin, as we are instructed we are to be.

One of God's annual Holy Days, part of God's plan of salvation for mankind, the Days of Unleavened Bread dedicates one week, seven days, for us to concentrate on putting sin out of our lives. God desires that we be in a state of humility because God cannot and will not dwell in a state of pride. That is the opposite of humility or the opposite of a contrite and broken heart.

Turn over to **Proverbs 16:18—Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall**. Pride will destroy you. There is no question about that. It is evident throughout the scriptures of those who were destroyed because they allowed pride to rule over them. It all starts with a proud or vain spirit, trusting in self. The day that we start to trust in self is the first day of our ultimate death. Not a physical death, but a spiritual one.

There is a saying that we learn from our mistakes, or at least we hope we do. Hindsight is 20/20. Sometimes, to know what we should be can be found in what we should not be. So, if someone asked you what is not humility, I think most of us in the Church would say Satan. We understand the opposite of humility is pride – Satan. If someone is filled with pride, they will not have the help of God's holy spirit that we know is the key to our success. It is how we will eventually be able to be born into the Family of God, Elohim. We need the holy spirit to help us to stay connected to God and Joshua so that we can yield to the process we have been called to.

The word pride is a word to describe the opposite of not being humble. But there are other words that can describe a state of not being humble. Individuals not humble most likely will be arrogant or conceited, thinking they are worth a whole lot more than they are realistically. Think of someone with an opinion about everything. They not only have that opinion, but they're always right. Someone not in a

state of being humble will most likely be proud or boastful. It is fine to be proud about things, but not to an extreme, especially if we're taking the success to ourselves. Nobody likes a braggard or someone who is constantly telling you their successes.

Then you have individuals who are self-centered or egotistical. They are into themselves, very self-absorbed. Narcissists are very self-centered. The world revolves around their interests, their desires, and what they want.

An individual who lacks a state of humility is entitled. They are the ones that deserve the promotion, the ones that deserve to win. They are the ones who have no problem receiving special treatment. Because after all, they exist.

These are not very nice things to be, and I do not think any of us wants to be like this. Unfortunately, we are, naturally. We are filled with human nature, the same nature as Satan. Human nature is pride. Pride is sin. Sin cuts you off from God. If the holy spirit is cut off from us, we are in deep trouble.

Some of us alive now know what happens when we're cut off from God, and we no longer have the flow of God's spirit, and pride abounds. We were part of Laodicea, the last era of God's Church before the end-time Church started.

In the Church of God PKG, there were many of us who were part of Laodicea. Some have died since their awakening, and some of us are alive now. Those of us who were part of Laodicea are witnesses and evidence of what can happen. It was an ugly time in God's Church when the love of many waxed cold. It was a time in God's Church when the flow of His spirit was completely cut off and we were asleep and did not know it.

Let's turn over to **Revelation 3:14—To the angel of the Church of Laodicea write, These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot**. We were right there in the middle, filled with pride, lukewarm, not a hint of humility in our thoughts or actions. Someone hot is working towards a spirit of humility. They have a heart that they can see wrong and understand it is wrong, and then want to change – someone always seeking to be in a state of humility.

I wish that you were either one or the other. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I'm about to spit you out of My mouth. We were lukewarm, just hanging out in the pride of our life. Thought we knew it all. We were forgetting our calling. We were exactly as the next verse describes.

You say, I am rich, I have acquired wealth, and I do not need a thing. Someone filled with pride thinks like this, someone who thinks they know more than their Creator does. Satan thought this and tried to take God's throne. We know the outcome of that. Pride never works for you, only against you. Pride will destroy you.

But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. This is the absolute result of pride in your life, the result of sin. Because of us, because of our state of not being humble, God had to vomit us out of His Church, out of His Body. Everyone who was part of Laodicea was vomited. Everyone has to come to see this, because if you can't, then you cannot be in a state of humility.

Remember, a broken and contrite heart is one that sees the wrong.

Those of us in the Laodicean era became lifted up, thinking we were wealthy and had need for nothing. We were self-sufficient, or as stated before, self-centered and egotistical. We did not need God. We could not clearly see what we were because we were cut off from God. Looking back now with the flow of God's spirit, we can clearly see how bad we were. Without God's spirit, we were naked and vulnerable to the influences of Satan.

We know that Satan is our enemy. He is our adversary, and we do not want to be anything like him. We know that when we sin, we give Satan power, because he also knows when we sin we are cut off from God. Satan will use pride against us. Satan is described "as a roaring lion seeking to devour." We know what he wants to devour – us. We must be sober, clear-minded, on guard against Satan and his influences. We also must be on guard and watchful against attitudes that may start to seep into our thinking, remembering that Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He knows our weaknesses, our number one, our number two, etc., and he will attack at every opportunity.

I recently watched a documentary on how the United States used mental mind games on their enemy in war to break them down. It was used in World War II and Vietnam and was very successful in both situations. They convinced their enemies of situations that really did not exist, but caused them to react in ways that they could take advantage and take the upper hand. This is one way Satan works.

This serves as a reminder our mind is a very precious thing, and we need to be alert and protect it. We are the keeper of our mind, and it is our responsibility, and nobody else's. We need to make sure we are wearing the helmet of salvation of God's armor.

As our adversary, Satan can be very cunning in how he approaches us; he has one thing in mind, and that is to get us to turn against God and our Passover, Joshua. If he can inspire thoughts that lead to a prideful mind, he knows that we will be cut off from the help that we need to fight him. When we stop fighting, then he wins, and he wants nothing more than to destroy a potential son of God.

Let's look at an example that Satan used to encourage the spirit of pride of needing nothing, the spirit that consumed him. Let's turn over to **Genesis 2:8**. **The Eternal God planted a garden eastward in Eden. There He put the man whom He had formed, and out of the ground the Eternal God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

After God had recreated the earth and all that is on it, He created Adam. He placed Adam in the Garden of Eden with all that he needed to survive and flourish. Adam was to dress and keep the garden.

Dropping down to **verse 15—Then the Eternal God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Eternal God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat. For in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die**. God gave Adam specific instructions. God put charge of the garden in Adam's hands. He was to take of what God had given him. God gave everything to Adam to eat, but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God, who created him out of the dust of the ground, told him not to do something.

All Adam ever knew was God and His word. God gave him life. You would think that Adam would have trusted God completely. He had no reason to ever doubt what God had told him. But Adam was flesh and blood and filled with human nature, the same nature as us and the same nature as Satan.

Keep your place here in Genesis, and let's review a few scriptures about Satan and what happened to him. Let's start with **Ezekiel 28:11. Moreover, the word of the Eternal came to me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Eternal God, You are the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty**. We know that this is talking about Satan. God created and called him Lucifer. Lucifer was perfect in how God created him. All that God creates is. Lucifer was filled with wisdom that God had given him. Lucifer, in his initial created state, was something to behold.

Verse 14—You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you. You were on the holy mountain of God. You walked back and forth in the midst of the fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. Lucifer was created by God, and he had audience with God. He was the most magnificent creation to this time, and all because God gave it to him.

Lucifer was given great responsibility, and he carried them out. We do not know how long it was before Lucifer became lifted up, but we know that he did. He became filled with jealousy that ate him up. God shared with Lucifer His plan to create man. Lucifer knew that man would be over him, and he could not stand the idea that he no longer would be the most perfect creation. He was lifted up and thought he was in need of nothing from God.

Verse 17—Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground. I laid you before kings that they might gaze at you. Lucifer became lifted up. He was filled with pride. He was not happy with what God had given him any longer because he learned of God's plan to create mankind. He was no longer satisfied with what God had called and given him to do. He not only turned on God, but he deceived one-third of God's angels to do the same. Lucifer and the angels became God's enemy. They became known as Satan and the demons.

The opposite of this stinking attitude of pride is humility. Looking at this example of Satan here, we can see that in order to stay in a state of humility, we cannot become dissatisfied with our calling, no matter what it is God is giving us. Our focus should always be that we want to be in God's Family, Elohim.

Not all are called to be one of the 144,000, but all are called to be Elohim. We must be happy in the order in which God is doing it, or we can find our hearts being lifted up and wanting more. If we find ourselves in a state of being lifted up, or thinking that we are better than what we are, weak human beings with human nature that can do nothing apart from God, we need to ask for help from God and cry out to have a heart like King David, to cry out to be brought back to a state of humility.

Turn over now to **Isaiah 14:12—How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning. How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the furthest sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the Most High**. Lucifer no longer thought he needed God. Because of his pride, Lucifer lifted himself above his Creator. He deceived himself into thinking he could become God, and "I" dominated his thinking. In his prideful state, he thought he could beat God. He found out he could not.

Satan hated God's plan, so he thought he could change it. He found out nothing will change the plan of God; it is an absolute. God will have His Family, Elohim.

Satan's jealousy, bitterness, and hatred for God's plan is what led to the earth being destroyed. Then, in God's timing, it was time to recreate the earth, and we find ourselves now back to the Garden of Eden, where Satan thought once again he could thwart God's plan. So, let's go back to Genesis now, and we will start now with chapter 3. We know from the previous verses, God told Adam that all that was in the garden was there for him and then later for Eve. He could eat of every tree but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Simple instructions given to Adam by God.

As we mentioned earlier, Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He is the master manipulator and very deceitful. He understands how to use deception and has had great practice at it. Remember, he deceived one-third of God's angels. We do not want to be cut off from God's help, or we too can become easily deceived.

So, **Genesis 3:1—Now the serpent** (or Satan) **was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Eternal God had made**. We know that Satan has a stinking attitude. We know that he is filled with pride, jealousy, hate, and any type of evil you can think of. He is the complete opposite of humility and a contrite heart.

And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Reflecting on what we just read in Ezekiel and Isaiah, this haughty attitude and response from Satan given to Eve in the garden is very understandable, and frankly, quite expected. Satan is cunning (or sly),

crafty, scheming, deceitful, manipulative, and so much more. So again, in other words, Satan is filled with evil. The words themselves show how smug Satan is. You can hear his condescending voice now mocking God, how the words just oozed out of his mouth, just reeking of pride.

And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree, which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. Eve would have done good to remember this: what God had told her was true. God had created Adam and Eve, so why would He lie to them? Why should He tell them not to eat something and not mean it?

She did not believe God, just like mankind does not today. The human nature in man will not allow us to believe God unless we have the power of God's holy spirit dwelling in us. Without God and His spirit actively working in us, we are just like Eve – we can be easily deceived by Satan.

Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. Pride stimulates the desire to know everything. It is what causes us to have our own opinions, and we tend to think we are always right.

Satan is calling God a liar. There is taunting in his attitude. He is using deception here just like he did with the angels. He is trying to convince Eve, and does so successfully, that they, Adam and Eve, will not die, but they will become equal to God, their Creator, in need of nothing.

Satan, too, at this time, still in his pride-filled, deceptive mind, thought he was equal to God. After all, all he had to do was thwart God's plan by deceiving Adam and Eve. He could do that. That is part of the problem with pride. It is not sound. Satan had no idea how much of a plan God had at this point, and that he was playing right into it.

Dropping down to **verse 13—And the Eternal God said to the woman, What is this you have done? And the woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate**. We know that not only did Eve eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but so did Adam. Both disobeyed God, and both were put out of the Garden of Eden. They both displayed an attitude of pride and were lifted up, thinking that they knew more than the Eternal God. They became prideful. And mankind has followed suit ever since.

Mankind, because they are cut off from God at this time, cannot understand we are to have an attitude of humility. Only the few God has called since Adam and Eve have the opportunity to understand and know this. We are a few of the blessed individuals because we have a calling. But being called and baptized does not mean we automatically have an attitude of humility working toward a contrite heart. It is the opposite. We fight God.

Let's turn over to **Romans 8:7—Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be**. This is the mind we are born with – to be at enmity, actively opposing

God. This means we are in conflict with God. And to be in conflict means you are not in agreement with God and can even become hostile towards God. Our minds do not agree with God and fight it naturally.

So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Of and by ourselves, we cannot and will not please God. Our natural action will be to please self, to put self first and seek what we desire. We are selfish by nature because we are filled with human nature, not God's nature. There is only one way we can please God.

But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you. Now, if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not His. We must be baptized, forgiven of our sins, and receive the gift of the holy spirit from God. Then, once we have the holy spirit, we can start to understand God's way of life and to start working towards becoming humble. Once humbled, we begin to understand that we must get rid of our pride and seek a contrite spirit. It only comes from God's help.

So, how do we start to become humbled and seek a contrite spirit? We must become and stay close to God. We know that there are two tools God gives us in order to do that – prayer and fasting. Every day we are to go to God in prayer. We know that this is our lifeline to God. Every day when we start our prayer, we need to remember and believe we have entered the Holy of Holies because we know and believe our elder brother Joshua as our Passover made way for us. If we do it thinking like this, we should be in a humble spirit because we realize we are going before God.

We are having a personal communication or conversation with our Father, Yahweh Elohim. It is the most important time of the day, and we know if we want to be fed spiritual food, guided in the correct way of life, and show God honor, we must ask for it. We also know that the first thing we need to do is ask to be forgiven of our sins. We confess to God our error and our weakness, and we ask God to forgive us of our sins because we understand sin cuts us off from God and we need to repent so that we can have a personal conversation with him.

If we are not having a conversation with God daily, we are not in a state of humility. We are saying that we do not need God. When we are in a state of humility, we know that God is right and we are wrong. Once our sins are confessed, God Almighty is listening, and He forgives us, and the flow of His spirit is able to start to flow in us again. It is because of God's spirit this cycle can continue, and each time we can grow a little bit more in the spirit of humility, removing pride.

Let's turn over to **Matthew 6:5—And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly, I tell you, they have received their reward in full**. Christ referred to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees as hypocrites. He spoke openly about them more than once.

A hypocrite is someone whose actions do not match their values; they put on a false image to deceive. Not a humble individual. Christ tells us not to be like this.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Prayer is a very personal thing. This is between us and God, and that is why Christ told us to do it in private. God wants us to see the wrong and be humble; this is between God and us. He wants us to have a contrite and/or remorseful spirit. God can then work with us. Prayer should always be done in a state of humility.

In Luke 18, Christ told a parable to show this. So, let's turn over to **Luke 18:9. To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Joshua told this parable**. We should never be confident in our own righteousness. This is pride. Our righteousness stinks. This is what leads us to misjudge others. This is what leads us to having opinions that do not matter. This is what causes dissension among the brethren – thinking our way is always right and everyone else is falling short.

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee (and remember what Christ thought about the Pharisees), **and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed, God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get**. This is not how you should start out your prayer, patting yourself on the back like you can do nothing wrong. Talk about pride. As I mentioned at the beginning of the sermon, sometimes it is good to see what we are not supposed to be. These actions are why Christ said they belong to their father, the devil.

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. So, here is the man the Pharisee was thankful he was not like, someone who was so pricked in the heart of his sins he would not even dare look up to heaven where God is. He knew what he was, and he was before God to tell Him he knew, and that he was sorry for what he was; he wanted to change.

I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. In Christ's own words, we are to be humble, especially in the moment of prayer. This is when we can be our most vulnerable, because God is wanting to listen. He wants to hear us say we are a sinner, because, frankly, we are. And God already knows this; He just needs to know that we know it, too.

Even on a good day, we've done something wrong because we are filled to the brim with selfish, pride-filled human nature. We need to be humble in prayer, and we need to be asking to stay in a state of humility. We want God to lift us up and put us in the Family of Elohim in His timing.

Turn over to **Psalms 4:1—Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness. You have relieved me in my distress. Have mercy on me and hear my prayer**. King David is in a humbled moment. He is calling on God and acknowledging that God is perfect. King David grew in a state of humility because he came to

see how much God loved him and how many times God showed kindness to him. Stop and reflect on how many times God has done the same for us.

God created us, and He knows we are not perfect. But that does not give us a license to sin. What that should do is give us encouragement. Like King David, we sin, but we can call upon God in those distressful times, too. We can ask God to show us grace and know that He is listening to our prayer. Every time we do this, we grow a little more in humility because Yahweh Elohim listens and hears. Our distress can turn to joy.

The tool of fasting is a great tool to show God that we are seeking to be closer to Him. We understand that when we fast, we are showing God we want to be at one with Him. The Holy Day that we fast from sundown to sundown is called Day of Atonement. On this day, we seek to be at one with God more than any other day. When we fast on the Day of Atonement, or any other day we choose, we should do so with a humble spirit and acknowledging that God is right and we are wrong. This is a tool to teach us that we cannot live without God spiritually, just like our physical bodies cannot do without the food and water we need to sustain it.

We have heard sermons on how we need to bring the dross, the impurities, to the top so that we can remove them. We cannot be in a state of humility if we're drowning in dross or impurities.

So, what exactly is dross, and how do we get it to the top? It is something regarded as worthless or rubbish. Basically, garbage that you do not need or want. We should be able to think of this spiritually. It would be the sin or sins in our lives.

The fruits of the holy spirit are listed in Galatians 5. But prior to Paul telling us the fruits of the holy spirit or behavior we should exhibit if we have God's holy spirit, he lists the works of the flesh. He mentions [Galatians 5:19] adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murder, drunkenness, revelries. That is a list of dross. That cannot be a part of our lives and should be removed. The works of the flesh do not show a state of humility, but instead one of pride, actions that show we think we are right in what we are doing.

So, let's look at the process of removing dross when done to metal. When heat is turned up on a precious metal, the dross then comes to the top. Let's look at the precious metal silver. The silver is placed into a crucible (which is a ceramic or metal container), and heated intensely. The silver then melts and allows the impurities, or the dross, to separate and rise to the surface as molten scum.

I feel like that is about the size of it, and we can look at it spiritually that way, too. The works of the flesh are the scum in us. Scum can be described as worthless or degenerate and evil, and vile. If we look at the list of the works of the flesh, that is a good way to sum them up.

The goal is to remove the dross or the molten scum that has come to the top. To do this, you carefully skim it off with a specialized skimmer, often made from clay graphite, leaving the pure silver to work with. God helps us to see what molten scum we have during a fast, and then God will help us to remove it if we ask. We know that the heat applied physically is compared to trials we may go through spiritually. The trial is the heat. When we go through a trial, we come to see things that should be removed from our lives.

We can also see dross or scum that needs to be removed by things we hear in a sermon. That is a reason why it is good to pray before we do hear a sermon and ask that our ears are pricked to know what we need to remove from our lives. The dross could be something we are falling short in, or maybe not putting God first in our lives. We realize there are things that need to be removed. In doing this, we are showing a contrite heart, one that wants to be corrected and changed.

Over the years, we have received so many great sermons about fasting. We have learned so many things about why to fast, how to fast, outcomes of fasting, and what God expects of us when we fast. This is what helps lead us to a state of humility. God requires that we have a mindset of being humbled, a mind that is void of pride. And when we fast, we are drawing closer to God. And it has to be our choice. We are commanded one time a year, and all other fasts are our choice.

God wants this because He wants a relationship with us. Once we come to this point and we do this on our own, we are saying we want a broken and teachable heart.

We must fast before God correctly, and the many sermons we receive can help us achieve this. Isaiah 58 has been broken down for us in detail. If we fast correctly, a healing can begin, a healing of our heart and mind. God will hear us and give us the help to become different, have a different attitude, and we will begin to bear the fruits of the holy spirit. We will become a humble individual relying on God Almighty.

Part of **Isaiah 57:15** states, **I live in a highly high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit**. God is in His heaven on His throne, but we know that God dwells also in us if we have His holy spirit. God will dwell with a person with a contrite and lowly spirit; someone not filled with pride. We know that God will not dwell in pride, which is sin. So, we need to make sure we do what we should so God can dwell in us.

Let's turn over to **Isaiah 26:4—Trust in the Eternal forever**. The only place you can put your trust is in God and Christ. Only God and Christ can be trusted because only their word is true. Human beings have human nature, and without the help of God, no matter how hard we try, we will put self first. The only hope we ever have of not being selfish is if we are yielding to God. Unfortunately for us, this is not always the case.

…for the Eternal, the Eternal Himself, is the Rock eternal. God is our Rock. God is our Petra. God is our place of safety. It is in God we can know that we can change, and we have His help. We must be

repentant of sin so we are not cut off. And when we repent of our sins, we can trust that God will forgive us. He told us that He would.

We already talked about how God vomited an entire church era, Laodicea, away from Him because they were steeped in pride. If we want God to dwell in us, we must be without pride. We must be of a broken and contrite spirit, ready to be corrected, always putting God first. This is something we have to choose.

Something that can help us to stay in a state of humility is to remind ourselves we have a calling. You were called by God Almighty, and that was not a mistake. You were called to a plan that gave you purpose. And without the plan of God in your life, there is nothing. We know that "Many are called, but few are chosen." This is referring to those God has called into His Church. So, out of the many that God has called, only a few are chosen. That means that if you are here and understand, you should be even more humbled. You are among only a few.

We must be of a mindset to be teachable, to have a teachable spirit, to want to learn more about God and His plan of salvation, to fulfill our calling, to have an attitude of humility, to see ourselves for what we truly are, apart from God – flesh and blood that can sin easily. We cannot allow ourselves to be lifted up in any fashion over anything. None of us has the power to sustain life. Only God. We need to remember what Paul said. "O wretched man that I am, who will save me?" If we are in a state of humility, we know the answer. God, and only God.

Let's turn over now to **Philippians 2:1—Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and one mind**. We are united with Christ and the Body of Christ, the Church, by God's spirit. We in the Body of Christ can have the comfort of agape, God's love, a fruit of the holy spirit. It is God's spirit dwelling in us, only because Joshua gave His life for us, that we can be of one mind. Joshua fulfilling the role of Passover, and done so in humility, is how we are one. We have great encouragement in that.

If we repent of our sin, then we will be united with Christ, and once part of Elohim, for eternity. We can all have the same mind of humility.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interest of others of the others. Someone selfish is seeking their own way for their own end result.

We see this in the world today, everywhere. Just look at the governments of the world. And it doesn't matter which one you pick; they all have their own agenda. They all seek what they want, when they want it, and how they want it.

Someone conceited is filled with pride. A conceited person will display narcissism, self-loving, admiring self, someone who knows that they're always right. We do not want to be this type of person. Instead,

we want to value humility that will help us to come to understand that we are not better than anyone else. But instead, we can come to see how much we have to learn from each other. If we value others above self, then we are thinking we are not important. You will find the good in what others do, and you will understand that there might be a better way of doing something, and you will listen.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Joshua the Christ. Joshua's mindset was one of sacrifice. His mindset is exactly the same as God. He put God first in all His choices He made, including being the Passover Lamb. He, time after time, reflected that the will of God was in His actions and deeds. He lived a life of humility.

And this is the mindset that we are to have, showing love towards one another just like God and Christ to us.

…who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage. Rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness. Joshua started off as flesh and blood with the revelatory mind of God. He did not let that lift Himself up, but instead He served His Father's every request. He lived a life without sin—no pride—in a state of humility.

And being found in appearance as man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a pole. He was born to die for mankind. He knew this without question, and He humbled Himself before God, and without hesitation, obeyed and fulfilled His calling. Joshua was the beginning of God's plan of salvation for man.

Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Joshua, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under earth, and every tongue acknowledged that Joshua the Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Joshua the Christ is the first of the firstfruits; He now sits at the right hand of God, awaiting the 144,000 to rule over the earth and to administer the Kingdom of God.

Turn over now to **Colossians 3:12—Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, forgiving one another. If anyone has complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, you also must do**. Those of us called by God are the elect of God. God loves us, and He wants us to live a certain way of life. We are to do unto others as we would want them to do to us.

God has shown us mercy, and we need to show that mercy to others. The only way that we can be kind, humble, meek, and suffer long for others is because God shows us how, and He gives us His spirit to help us. We must love one another and forgive all offenses committed to us.

Joshua died on a pole for everyone. He humbled Himself to the process He was born to do. If Joshua died for us, then we are to die for one another. We are to sacrifice self, our human nature, and be in a state of humility so that we can become more like Joshua.

As we end today's sermon, we would be remiss if we did not cover the ultimate act of humility, and that is the sacrifice of our Passover, Joshua the Christ. We know that Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 5:7 …Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us**. On Passover night, when we eat the piece of unleavened bread that represents the Body of Christ as the Passover, we need to remember that this represents Christ offering Himself as the Passover Lamb of God, and He did it willingly and humbly.

Joshua lived in a state of humility from the second of His birth. He lived a life being the perfect example of humility. Joshua never once questioned His part of God's plan that was His part from the second He took breath. He knew why He was born, and He humbly fulfilled that.

Joshua never placed what He wanted above anything God asked of Him. He submitted Himself completely and freely to God. He was the perfect Passover Lamb. He died for all mankind. Joshua, on the night He was arrested, gave us a new command that we were to follow.

In **John 13:34**, it states, **A new command I give you, love one another; as I have loved you, so you must love one another**. He loved us enough to give His life.

That type of love that Christ is talking about is agape, a love that is void of pride, one that sees the good and not the bad, one that is willing to help each other make it. A love of humility, just like Christ had. When He gave His life for mankind, He became the Passover Lamb forever. To sacrifice your life is done only if you are humble.

Brethren, our very spiritual lives depend upon us working towards and always staying in a state of humility. We must remove all pride from our lives. We cannot let the “lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life” rule us. And we know it desires us.

We are warned in **Genesis 4:7** that **Sin is crouching at your door, and it desires to have you, but you must rule over it**. We know that sin cuts us off. And when that happens, here comes that stinking human nature of selfishness and pride.

As we end today, we need to remember our Passover, our perfect example of humility. We need to remember our calling. If you have a calling from God Almighty, you should be humbled by that.

I want to end today with **Proverbs 22:4—Humility** – the quality of having a modest view of one's value or importance; a state of no pride. Having a broken and contrite spirit, one that sees wrong and wants to be corrected, and more importantly, change.

…and the fear of the Eternal… We know that this does not mean to be afraid of God. It means to fear going against God and being cut off from His holy spirit. It is our lifeline to Elohim. It is our lifeline to living in a state of humility.

…bring wealth… The greatest wealth we have is we know who God is, who Christ our Passover is, what Elohim is, and all of God's 57 Truths. We know the plan of salvation of God Almighty, and we know that all will come to be because, unlike Satan, we believe our Creator.

…and honor and life. When we fear not to go against God and live His way of life, we honor Him and each other. We know that we have the answer to life, not physical life, but spiritual life, of being in Elohim for eternity and having God and Christ dwell in us. We need to remember that our goal is to be a part of Elohim, and the only way that that is going to happen is if we find ourselves in a state of humility.

So again, “Humility and the fear of the Eternal bring wealth and honor.” Brethren, humility is a very powerful thing. Humility helps us fight Satan. Humility is how we can achieve a broken and contrite heart. Humility is where God dwells. We must pray and fast and ask God Almighty that we stay in a state of humility always.