



⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Notes:



"Only the one true God can take the risk of ruling by relying on the power of humility and love." -Stanley Hauerwas

Humility was unique amongst the virtues of early Christianity. It was a term which did not hold a very high place within the Roman culture. The word was reserved for those who were considered to be simple, unlearned, and even enslaved. Imagine the impact of the first Jesus followers as they embodied (as one of their core qualities) humility through servanthood.

We may be a couple of thousand years removed from those times, but humility is not always smiled upon in our world. I think of the words of Mac Davis's well-known song from nearly fifty years ago entitled, "It's Hard to Be Humble." Like the songs says, "(We're) doing the best that (we) can," but even as Christians our ego can get in our way.

In today's sermon text, James challenges his audience to realize they are not beyond the example of their Lord and Savior. If they wish to excel in greatness, they have to humble themselves "before the Lord." It is true for us as well! It is not enough to think differently of ourselves, but, rather, we must compare ourselves to the one who is the source of our existence. However, to do so, may not be all that comfortable.

1. Humility calls for submission to the One who is not me.
2. Humility begins with honest confession and cleansing.
3. Humility brings an acceptance greater than human.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, humility comes with a price. It means saying “No” to me, my preferences, my agenda, and “Yes” to who you are. Break me of the habits, attitudes, and feelings which I have about myself and others in order that I might be drawn closer to you. Amen.