

Haughty or Humble?

- 5 yr old son used to love cleaning up table after supper, taking out garbage, picking up all toys; did w/o complaint. But now: “Mom, Dad, you make rules; I want set rules, you obey me.” HorH? 17 yr old daughter used to love helping people; would babysit, volunteer, helping around house, at grandma’s, never asked for anything in return. But now: “Not doing anything anymore; sick of helping people; I deserve better; I’m not work for them; want them to work for me.” HorH? You can see difference between what started off as humble, turned into haughty heart. Humble: heart filled with love, generosity; wants to help others; not so concerned about getting in return; just humble. But haughty: exact opposite; heart filled with arrogance, pride; haughty person thinks better than others, deserves more than others; and re helping others – doesn’t cross mind. Diff between H & H heart.
- Two of Jesus’ closest disciples, James & John – we think of them, humble heart. Left fishing nets to follow Jesus; wanted him to be their teacher; wanted to learn from him, be like him. So pretty shocking when **vs. 35**. “Jesus, we want you to do what we tell you to do.” Wait; gets worse. **Vs. 36-37**. Basically, “When get heaven, seated on throne, angels waiting on you, we want to be right there; flank you; we want be ones sitting right next to you, so everyone can look at us, see we’re favs, most important.” That’s what asking! HorH?
- When read this account of J/J coming (In Mt, mother, too! So really, the 3.), makes you think: who’d really do that? Just presumptuous, rude! Other disciples certainly thought so; **vs. 41**. Guess can’t blame. Not J/J’s finest hour. But Bible is never afraid to show flaws of God’s people. Here, see sin of pride, having haughty heart. What does, forces us to ask question: “What about me? Do I have H or H heart?” When you honestly ask yourself that question, look at evidence, can only come to one conclusion. We have same heart they did, because have same sinful nature they did. By nature, I, you, disciples, all people – we all have haughty hearts. We are not humble! Like people think we are. But we all think more highly of selves than should; think deserve more for things we’ve done; all look down on others; all love selves more than others. All have haughty hearts!
- Jesus tried to help J/J understand this; **vs. 38**. The cup to drink, baptism to undergo: was his terrible, excruciatingly painful suffering, death on cross about to endure. Picture chalice filled with God’s wrath; on cross Jesus would drink to dregs. Picture baptism of fire that would be poured out on Son of God at Calvary. “Is that really what you want?” Jesus asked J/J. “Can really go through that?” **Vs. 39-40**. “No, wrong idea. When I show world true glory, guys on r/l will be hanging on crosses. As for you, you’ve got a cup to drink too, baptism to undergo, because you’re going to suffer right along with me, because that’s what it means to be Christian.” In fact, they did. Years later John exiled; James executed, for believing in Jesus. But here, Jesus rebukes them (us) for having haughty hearts.
- But does more than that. **Vs. 42** True, this world doesn’t praise humility. People that want to succeed in life have to fight, claw way to top; look out for #1; have haughty heart. But **vs. 43-45**. You tell me: HorH? In middle of tense situation with angry, prideful disciples, Jesus takes opportunity to teach them true humility, Christ’s humility.
- **Vs 45a**. Never bossed people around; never demanded people serve him, wait on him, cook his meals, wash his feet; never displayed prideful arrogance in way talked to people; never looked down on people; thought better than people. And if there was anyone in world who ever could have taken that attitude, would have been Jesus! After all, sinless Son of God – he is better than us! But didn’t come to be served. Came (came into world; left heaven, came down to us) to serve us.
- How? **Vs. 45b**. Ransom: think hostage situation – bad guy abducts; demands payment; only then release hostage. Money paid is called ransom, paid by good guys to bad guy to free hostage. Satan (ultimate bad guy) held us hostage. Abducted us, holding us captive through sinful nature; because of sins, we in his clutches. Couldn’t get free. Needed good guy to free us - Jesus. Ransom required – innocent, sinless life and terrible crucifixion death of Son of God himself, the same one who came

from heaven to serve. Jesus paid full ransom price! Luther's Expl of Creed: *"Not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death."* Jesus paid full ransom price; **"gave his life as a ransom for many."** We were set free. Hostages were released – every sinner ever lived, every one of us, without exception – all set free from Satan, like hostages released; all because Jesus paid ransom price of his own life to save us. HorH?

- Statue in front of PD in Mequon; officer kneeling by little girl; ¼ mile from Sem; pastors driven by many times. Statue stands in honor of Officer Thomas Buntrock, who in Dec. 1979 involved in hostage situation. Criminal took man and child hostage; Buntrock negotiated with criminal; allowed himself taken captive; hostages released; officer killed. Gave life as ransom to free those 2 people; with that statue, Officer Thomas Buntrock is honored for his selfless sacrifice. And now, take that sacrifice and honor, multiply them infinitely for Jesus Christ, because gave life as ransom to free us all, not just from death, but hell. That's what Jesus did. HorH?
- Answering easy. Next part hard: how does Jesus' sacrifice change you? How does being hostage, set free from Satan/hell, by Jesus, change you? How affect life? **Vs. 43-44.** Talking to 12, but also to us. If we are moved by self-sacrificing love of JC, if we will be changed by what he's done for us, then this must be change! Jesus changes us from H to H; from arrogance to service; from being a prideful, self-serving, "I'm better than others" kind of person to slave. That's kind of change that Jesus wants to see, and that Jesus' sacrifice makes, in you and me.
- Php 2 says well; listen carefully for contrast between what is haughty, and humble. **"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 interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:"** [So Jesus changes us our haughty heart into a humble heart like his; here is what his humble heart looks like] **"who, being in 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. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!" (2:3-8).** That's Christ's humble attitude; also to be our humble attitude.
- Or think like this: on night before died, what did Jesus do? Instituted Holy Communion, prayed for them; also something else. Washed their feet. Son of God, hours before being tortured for them, washed nasty, smelly, dirty feet. HorH? When finished, called disciples together – like here in incident with J/J – huddled together, said, **"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (Jn 13:14-17).** "You will be blessed if you do them." "Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." You are a released hostage. What kind of heart do you want to have? What kind of person do you want to be? HorH?

Mark 10:35-45

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. ³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." ³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" ³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."