

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

*The Battle Belongs to the Lord
Prayer Guide #9
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



Jesus' Humiliation
Colossians 1.13-18

Humble King
Brenton Brown

Oh, kneel me down again, here at Your feet;
Show me how much you love humility.
Oh Spirit, be the star that leads me to
The humble heart of love I see in You.

You are the God of the broken,
Friend of the weak;
You wash the feet of the weary,
Embrace the ones in need.
I want to be like You, Jesus,
To have this heart in me.
You are the God of the humble,
You are the humble King.

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Jesus is Lord, God the Son

Isa. 7.14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isa. 9.6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jer. 23.6 - In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Mic. 5.2 - But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Matt. 1.23 - "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

John 1.1-2 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God.

John 1.18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 17.5 - And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Rom. 9.5 - To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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2 Cor. 4.4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Col. 1.15-16 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

1 Tim. 1.17 - To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim. 3.16 - Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Titus 2.13 - waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Heb. 1.3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Heb. 1.6 - And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Heb. 1.8 - But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom."

Heb. 13.8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.



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Though exalted as Lord, Christ humbled himself under God

Ps. 131.1 - O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

Zech. 9.9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matt. 12.19-20 - He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; [20] a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. Matt. 21.5 - "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

Phil. 2.5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, [8] he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Pet. 2.21-23 - For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. [22] He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. [23] When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.



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Isa. 41.1-4 - Listen to me in silence, O coastlands; let the peoples renew their strength; let them approach, then let them speak; let us together draw near for judgment. [2] Who stirred up one from the east whom victory meets at every step? He gives up nations before him, so that he tramples kings underfoot; he makes them like dust with his sword, like driven stubble with his bow. [3] He pursues them and passes on safely, by paths his feet have not trod. [4] Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.

The divine Son humbled himself, was incarnated, became a servant

Matt. 1.20-21 - But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

John 1.14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 2.11 - For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Matt. 20.25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [26] It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, [28] even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Gal. 4.4 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.



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Luke 9.51-56 - When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. [52] And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. [53] But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. [54] And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" [55] But he turned and rebuked them. [56] And they went on to another village.

2 Cor. 10.1 - I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—

As the One whom God exalted, the lowly Jesus commands authority

Matt. 28.20 - teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Luke 6.46-48 - Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? [47] Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: [48] he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

Luke 8.35 - Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Luke 10.39-42 - And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. [40] But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." [41] But the Lord



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answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, [42] but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

John 13.3-5 - Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, [4] rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. [5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13.15 - For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Let us take his yoke on us and learn from him

Matt. 11.25-30 - At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; [26] yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. [27] All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. [28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matt. 7.24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matt. 17.5 - He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”



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John 13.17 - If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

John 14.21-24 - "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." [22] Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" [23] Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

John 15.10-14 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. [12] This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you.

1 Thess. 4.2 - For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Heb. 5.9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. ■

THIS YEAR, we are focusing on the nature of spiritual warfare: the battle belongs to the Lord, and he will fight and win his victories over his enemies. Amazingly, though, God does not use the same kind of weaponry or demeanor that we do as he fights to deliver his people and glorify his name.



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Like the amazing stories told in fairy tales, our great Story of love and grace reveals a principle that reverses the world's common sense notions of power, influence, and superiority in victory. God reverses the way he takes on and defeats Satan and his minions, those ancient foes of humankind and the universe which have ravaged and corrupted creation. His method? The lowliness and humiliation of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. John Stott in his wonderful little devotional study, *The Cross of Christ*, speaks of the unique and matchless act of love the Father displayed in order to reconcile all things to him and defeat the powers. Amazingly, it is an act of supreme lowliness that made this salvation possible:

Only one act of pure love, unsullied by any taint of ulterior motive, has ever been performed in the history of the world, namely the self-giving of God in Christ on the cross for undeserving sinners. That is why, if we are looking for a definition of love, we should look not in a dictionary, but at Calvary.

Calvary is the climax of the incarnation of the Son of God. From the moment of his conception to the last breath given on Calvary, every dimension of Jesus' life was shaped and steeped in a profound humility. From heaven's great heights the Lord of all became the Carpenter of Nazareth, who lived in anonymity and humility for the majority of his life. At every turn in his life and his ministry, Jesus demonstrated what it means to be humble, gentle, lowly, and vulnerable. In opposition to the contemporary views of Messiah as a conquering King who would exalt Israel's status and place among the Gentiles, Jesus came as a lowly servant, quietly demonstrating in word and deed the righteousness and beauty of the Father, and revealing the Kingdom in his mighty acts and miracles.

It is clear that this method of lowliness and humility caught the entire nation off guard. How can a humble carpenter from Galilee be the mighty Son of David, destined to reign forever in righteousness in the Kingdom of God.



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How can this person whose brothers and sisters were known by his neighbors claim to be the Son of Man of Daniel and Isaiah's vision? How can we expect such a seemingly powerless and unimpressive sort of itinerant prophet to be the one who will crush the enemies of God under his feet, and inaugurate the Kingdom of God in its full splendor and glory? It can't be. It doesn't make sense. Surely this Nazarene cannot be the King we have longed for, the seed of Abraham through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed.

Truly, the lowliness of Jesus was an obstacle in the minds of those pondering his identity, those wondering whether or not he was in fact the Son of the Living God. Jesus, unperturbed by their musings and doubts, simply demonstrated to all who had ears to hear the glory of the Father in his person. In his teaching, his miracles, his exorcisms, his love and servanthood, he gave witness to all that he was in fact the One of whom the prophets spoke. His apostles witnessed time and again his depth of lowliness and gentleness in the way he answered his detractors, loved and ministered to the blind and lame, and how he preached the Good News to the poor. Although displaying the Father in ways they either refused or could not acknowledge, he proved himself dozens of times in many different episodes and ways that he was in fact the divine Son of God, and that he had come to deliver his own from their sins. Jesus of Nazareth is truly Messiah, the Lord of all.

It is told that, in regard to humility, the great reformer Martin Luther once said, "We need goat sense." Luther spoke of seeing two goats who met on a path on a mountain ledge, going in the opposite direction of one another. Rather than butt, fight, and insist on having each its own way, one of these powerful mountain goats simply laid down and allowed the other goat to pass over him. In one sense, we have been taught our whole lives long to insist that the other goat lie down, or we argue about who got to the spot first, or we seek to fight our way out. In a real sense, our Lord laid himself



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down on our behalf, though we were undeserving and patently guilty. We literally live through the gentleness and lowliness of our Lord, and so we ought to strive to be like him, in all things.

The entrance of the lowly Nazarene into the world reveals something fundamentally different regarding God's warfare and his battle to bring his creation back. Since his reign and rule had been defied and spoiled through the disobedience of humankind, he determined to restore his reign through the obedience and submission of his Son. The Kingdom of God is not about hubris, pride, or human superiority. It is not about blunt force and spiritual hype. The Kingdom of God is about the will of God, a will which Jesus of Nazareth called his food, his very delight. In the lowly, gentle life, the yoke that was easy and the burden that was light, God inaugurated his reign. Christ wins the victory on Calvary not through means that we might guess God would use. Rather, the Lord chose to display his mightiest power and highest good through the submission, lowliness, and humility of his Son. Truly, in the Kingdom of God (and therefore, the warfare of the Lord), the way up is down.

This principle, that lowliness, gentleness, and submission of Christ are the key to spiritual power and victory, will not be a principle that we will learn easily, and maybe not even gladly. Everything in our American culture glorifies the strong, the independent, the powerful, and mighty. We admire the wealthy and the impressive, and discount the meek and the lowly. Our mottos and our methods do not highlight nor glorify the little guy, the underling, the underdog. We like betting on the strong; we don't give prizes or awards for being weak or lowly. As far as I know, I can't think of a public award ceremony dedicated precisely and only to those who have demonstrated the greatest sense of servanthood, humility, and brokenness. We throw away broken things—we don't prize them.



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The Kingdom, however, goes forth on a different plane, and functions by a different set of rules and principles. God exalts the lowly, and works through the meek. Christ's example reveals that heaven does not rely on human strength and ingenuity to establish the Kingdom. God fights our battles and wins the day through the meekness of Christ, through the Cross, and not my power nor might. Only his Spirit can provide the supply that in the day of decision will bring us triumph. Only submission and lowliness secures the victory.

As we reflect on the work of God in Christ during this Season after Pentecost, we must ask the Lord for a new vision of the ancient battle he wages for us against our enemies. As a season of preparation and waiting, of harvest and hope, we must ask God to provide us with the spiritual vision to see life as it really is, not as we have been conditioned or socialized to understand it. The lowliness of Christ reveals something fundamentally true about the nature of authentic spirituality and genuine spiritual triumph. The devil and his partners fail from God's favor because of their pride, their crooked sense of independence, their unwillingness to acknowledge God as supreme sovereign of all, and their crazed desire to have things their own way. Jesus, as the divine Son of God, emptied himself and became human, in utter obedience to the Father, to pay the debt of Adam's rebellions, and pay the price of our own transgression. Truly, the Kingdom is won through lowliness and gentleness, and the way of the Nazarene is the only way to real power and fruitfulness.

This month let those of us who hail Christ as the Victor ponder the way in which he won it for us. He came not asserting his rights and protesting his place, but in gentleness and lowliness, as One fully submitted to God, his Father. May we come to display this same lowliness in all we are and do, may our prayers and devotion reveal our humility, and may the submission of Christ be reproduced in us as we turn our hearts to him.

Only humility can make us whole, only submission can rescue his world through his own royal Son, who is also Messiah and Lord. ■



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The Season after Pentecost: The Humility of Jesus

Phil. 2.5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, [8] he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Season after Pentecost, we affirm the exalted Christ, the risen Lord and Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Having descended from heaven's high place to become a human being, the Nazarene humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even to death on a Cross. Now exalted and glorified at the Father's right hand, our Lord has been crowned Lord of all and crowned as Head of the Church and Heir of all things. In his life and ministry we see the only way to be exalted in the reign of God. Those who humble themselves will be exalted, and those who exalt themselves shall be humbled.

Matt. 20.25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [26] It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, [28] even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



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