

# Humility: The Freedom that Comes When Pride Goes

Part 3: Resurrection Sunday

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## Full Text (for reading on your own)

### *TESTIMONY: Favor with Principal*

Nakeah had a friend scheduled to shadow her at school. She had known this for months and was very excited about it! One day her teacher told her that she had a standardized test scheduled for that morning that her friend was supposed to be shadowing her. Nakeah was very disappointed.

That night Nakeah prayed that God would show her favor when she talked with her principal. The next day she asked her principal if she could take the test another day, however the principal said it was not possible because the test is very important.

Later that day in science class, Nakeah prayed and asked God what was going on and God gave her a picture that during study hall (later in the day) she would be called on the walkie talkie - by her principal, not by the office ladies or anybody else, but by her principal - and she would say it was moved.

So, later that day that exact thing happened!

### *TESTIMONY: No More Bad Dreams!*

Nevaeh shared that sometimes when she watches a movie she gets bad dreams. She usually goes and asks her parents to pray for her. It was late at night one time and she was getting bad dreams and she was going to go ask her parents to pray for her about it.

Then she thought "I think I could pray for myself because sometimes my parents say that." So Nevaeh started praying and started saying "(fear) leave in the name of Jesus!" Then she declared "thank You Jesus for dying on the Cross and washing away my sins; I pray that will have awesome dreams."

"AND I HAVEN'T HAD BAD DREAMS SINCE!"

## "Let Me give to you."

*"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:15-18)*

The Gospel is not in word; it is in power. If your body needs healing, there is power in the broken body of Jesus Christ. Jesus said "do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Peter 2:24 says Jesus *"bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."* Notice that you WERE healed by His stripes. Because it happened when He was whipped, you ARE ALREADY healed! You've already got it. You just receive it by faith. Faith appropriates (receives) what grace has already provided.

There were two sons in Luke 15 that didn't understand the father. The one got his inheritance and left relationship - later to come back realizing that he needed daily bread, not just bread once. The older son was always with the father, but wasn't always with him in his heart. The older son thought the father expected lots of things from him and that's what was pleasing to his father.

It turns out that was not his father's terms of connection.

Everyone is wondering what God's terms of connection are. "How can I connect with God?" What are His terms of connection?

Every family has terms of connection. In some families, everything is OK until you do something unpopular, and then you're not OK with them. In some families, everything is OK until you do something really stupid, and then you're not OK with them. In some families, everything is OK until you fall on hard times financially, and then you're not OK with them. But that's not perfect love; that's fear. Fear involves torment - there is an expectation of things going badly for you, and therefore close relationships are hindered. Not so with our Father.

Our Father had two terms of connection that he communicated to the older son. "You are always with Me" and "all that I have is your's."

God's terms of connection with you are summarized in one word: AGAPE. It means a self-sacrificial love. The only terms on which you can connect with God is Him giving to you.

"But I want to give to God ... I want to love God well ..." Great. *"We love because He first loved us."* (1 Jn. 4:19). Love is found IN this ... *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (1 Jn. 4:10)

The only terms you can come to God on are His terms - which is Him giving love to you. It's so counter-intuitive. We think we've got to do something for God but He's saying "let Me do for you."

### *The True Bread that Comes Down from Heaven*

Communion has Luke 15 written in it.

The body was everything physical that was broken in Jesus that we could receive all of that - including healing. His body was broken for us that we could receive healing. "All that I have is your's."

His blood was shed for us - that we could be in a new covenant, by His blood, a covenant of peace which He will never remove from us!

I'm not being philosophical or religious. I'm talking with you about the message that changed my life. And I know many other lives it has changed too.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God ...

What is it like to have peace with the Creator of the universe? Erin shared a testimony recently about what it's like to go from not having peace (having condemnation) to having complete peace with God.

His blood was shed for us.

What is it like to have bodies healed instantly with a prayer? Amazing!

What's it like to lay hands on someone and feel power come out of your hands and then ask them to try their ailment out and them declare "I'm healed!"

What's it like to just tell people about what Jesus has done on the Cross and they say "hey, you don't need to pray now; I just got healed!"

That's the Christian life.

What's it like to talk to someone who has been tormented by fear for 40 years and to lay hands on them and fear leaves them and NEVER comes back?

It's called Christian recreation.

*"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the Lord of hosts.*" (Zech. 4:6)

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, **who heals all your diseases** ..."* (Ps. 103:2-3)

Jesus gave thanks before He broke bread. Do you remember when He multiplied loaves for 5000 (families)? What did He do? *"Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children."* (Mt. 14:19-21)

Jesus blessed the loaves knowing that those few loaves were going to feed the multitude. At the last supper, before His body was broken, He looked to Heaven and gives thanks - why? Because He knows that His body will feed the multitudes!

This is the TRUE BREAD that comes down from Heaven!

### *What do you need?*

What do you need? Do you need healing?

Don't take His body for nothing! It didn't cost Him nothing to give His body for you. Don't take His body for nothing.

If your father gave you a million dollars that you know He had blood, sweat, and tears in ... and then you went and only bought a candy bar with it? Or left it on the ground?

You were bought at a price. Don't take His body for nothing.

It honors Jesus Christ to put a demand on what His broken body has accomplished for you. I'll say it again - it honors God to put a demand on what His broken body has accomplished for you!

"Do you want to be healed?" Jesus asked this often! When Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus, He asked him *"What do you want Me to do for you?"*

"Um, I don't know if you noticed ... I'm blind. Why are you asking me what I want You to do for me?" Jesus prompted faith all the time. "I'm blind. Can't you see? Even I can see this one ... I want you to heal me so that I can see."

But as soon as he said *"Rabboni, that I may receive my sight"* faith had been released and now Jesus could release grace to him.

You can use your words to do it or you can just reach out and touch them hem of His cloak - that's all it takes!

Do you need financial breakthrough?

Do you need career breakthrough?

Do you need breakthrough in severed relationships?

Everything that is broken in this life, Jesus came to make it whole!

“Oh that’s for Heaven ...” OK, well here’s how I pray “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, ON EARTH as it is in HEAVEN!”

When I get to Heaven I want it to be as little of an adjustment as possible because that means I will have accomplished God’s will on this earth and lived in His presence.

Do you want your life to look a little more like Heaven? Because Jesus’ body was broken that it would!

Everything that Jesus didn’t deserve He became that everything that we could become everything we didn’t deserve. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Cor. 5:21)

His body was broken that our bodies could be made whole.

His thinking was effectively cursed by having the thorns (which symbolize the curse on the land) that we would receive the mind of Christ.

It’s the great exchange! You receive it by faith. “What do you want ME to do for you?”

Do you need relationships? “I need friends, Father.” Ask Him!

What Jesus accomplished on the Cross was not trivial. There’s no other name under Heaven by which you can be set free. There is no other name by which you can be saved. There’s no other name above Jesus.

Cancer HAS TO GO beneath the body and Name of Jesus Christ!

### *The Humility of Christ*

Luke 23:32-37 “There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

I was visualizing Jesus being whipped and put to death this past week. I don’t want to become callous or too familiar with what He did. As I visualized it, something inside of me wanted to scream “stop! stop!” But I didn’t. I knew I needed it.

Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

God, help me be like that! “He who has been forgiven much loves much.” That’s how you get like that, by the way. I’m serious. If you have trouble forgiving your spouse, get serious about receiving the forgiveness of God in your own life. You don’t love *from* you. *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*” (1 Jn. 4:10) More love for people is found IN recognizing how God loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation of our sins! More of THAT revelation is what leads us to be more loving!

And they divided His garments and cast lots.

His robe was so valuable that they cast lots for it and didn’t want to divide it up because it was without seam. Psalm 22:17-18 prophesied this *“I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”* This is just one of the 61 detailed prophecies Jesus fulfilled. It is calculated that the odds against one person fulfilling all eight prophecies are astronomical—one in ten to the 21st power (10<sup>21</sup>). The odds therefore of someone fulfilling all 61 prophecies are insurmountable! Lee Strobel says it like this “one chance in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion.” (The Case for Christ, p 262)

His garment was so valuable that you can see it like his body being broken for us. He became poor that you might become wealthy. *“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”* (3 John 1:2) God delights in the prosperity of His servants. (Ps. 35:27)

If you are in financial hard times right now, His valuable garment was stripped off so that you could receive the ability to get wealth!

And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, **“He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.”**

In Matthew 3, we see Jesus’ baptism. *“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Mt. 3:16 - 17)

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness and is tempted by the devil. The devil says “if you are the Son of God, DO such and such.” The enemy comes with temptation and what he is trying to get you to do is to work to prove your identity.

God says in Genesis 1 “let US make man in our image.” “Us” because He’s the Trinity. Adam and Eve are made in the image of God. Yet in Genesis 3, the serpent, satan, says “*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.***”

The first Adam falls for the lie and instead of listening to the Word of God, tries to walk out his identity in his own strength - grasping for the fruit of an identity that was promised.

The second Adam, not so. Satan tempts Him to work and Jesus just responds with the Word. At the end of those temptations (Luke 4:13) we see “*Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until **an opportune time.***”

Now we are reading (in Luke 23) the more opportune time!

This is Jesus who did so many miracles that the last verse of the Gospel of John says “*And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.*”

“Oh that’s hyperbole ...” “NO it is not!” There’s a backstory to every one of those stories. God never views a miracle as though it were a list in an inventory; He only views it in light of your entire life. He is a Father who works miracles, not a miracle worker.

So now (in Lk. 23) there is this more opportune time because Jesus has done so many miracles! Multiple people have been raised from the dead. He’s confronted the greatest authorities of the day - political and religious. Blind eyes are opened. Deaf ears unstopped. The mute speak. The lame walk. The lepers are cleansed. In Lk 7:21 we see that John the Baptist’s disciples witnessed MANY miracles in just 1 hour! “*And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.*” And Jesus walked like that for 3 years! Three years of that. Three years.

Then a very profound thing happens. Jesus is on the Cross and satan has his more opportune time.

Previously in Matthew 4, Jesus says “I am not going to work to show you My Identity. My Father has shown Me my identity. I don’t need to demonstrate.” Then there was lots of demonstration, was there not?

But now the more opportune time ... “if He’s the Christ, the Chosen of God.”

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “**If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.**”

Let's now look at Philippians 2:5-11 *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God (**equality with God something to be grasped**), but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

I was in prayer recently and had an encounter with Jesus. I sensed Him say "I didn't count equality with God something to be grasped because I trusted the love of My Father. I knew that He would never leave Me."

I said "why?" I then heard Him say "Because He promised Me 'I will not let My Holy One see corruption' so I became obedience to death even death on a Cross."

Psalms 16. Jesus had a promise from His Father.

He had seen so many miracles, but now (in Lk. 23) it's like a miracle of humility to not perform a miracle but to instead trust the word of His Father who said "I will not let My Holy One see corruption."

Pride must prove itself.

Humility simply trusts what your Father has said.

To Jesus, the promise of His Father "I will not let My Holy One see corruption" was more real to Him than the circumstances around Him as He hung on the Cross.

That's humility because it says "God's Word is more trustworthy than my sight or ability to see." God's Word, what He has said, is more trustworthy than my sight or my ability to see.

Adam and Eve - "we've been made in the image of God and given access to all of who He is, but what I see is that there is one physical tree that we have not been given access to eat from. God says we have access to all of who He is, BUT there is this one tree ..." So satan comes and says "if you're made in the image of God shouldn't you be able to have this fruit?"

"I don't need to go there ... my Father has said."

"You are the Son of God!" "OK, then command these stones to become bread."

"No, I don't need to go there ... My Father has spoken."



Then we see all the manifestations of Christ's identity and here He is on the Cross, at a more opportune time, and satan says "save Yourself." Do you notice I say "satan says?" He was just using a few mouth pieces.

Jesus, however, was more aware of the promise of His Father which is "I will not allow My Holy One to see corruption." Jesus knew not only that He would die, but also that He would rise again!

Isaac went up the hill carrying wood for a sacrificial fire trusting that his father's word was true. His father's (Abraham's) word to him was "God will provide a lamb / ram." God's word to Jesus was "the Lamb will rise again!"

Humility is to trust the Word of God more than your circumstance.

### *Receiving Communion*

Your circumstances may say one thing, but HE SAID that by the breaking of His body - by His stripes - you were healed! Receive your healing in Jesus' Name!

If you're believing for the healing of relationships His Word says *"And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations!"* (Isa, 61:4)

If you're believing for freedom from fear, worry, or shame, Jesus came to proclaim *"liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ..."*

If you are believing Him for breakthrough in your career, receive His body! Forget not His benefits! He wants you to benefit from your relationship with Him!

You may think to yourself "how can I - how can I - receive all of that?" The answer is, it's by the blood of the new covenant!

The blood of God has been shed on our behalf. There is power in the blood because the life is in the blood. The very resurrection life that coursed through the veins of Christ is available to us. His life is in His blood.

There is also a new covenant in His blood. No it's not based on my works, it's based on HIS finished work on the Cross! You can receive all the benefits of God not questioning whether you deserve them, but instead relying on Him Who's Righteousness you've relied upon!

1 Cor. 11:25 "In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**"

Isn't it wonderful it's not in your blood - but instead in His blood! Go ahead and receive that New Covenant!

Humility believes what God has said about you - nothing more, nothing less. It's pride that causes us to trust our own actions. It's not necessary. Jesus modeled this beautiful humility where all of a sudden the man everyone was coming to see restrained Himself from doing any of those miracles - because His identity was not wrapped up in any of that, but instead what his Father had said to Him.

Your Father has spoken some things over you. Here's two of them.

1. His body was broken that your's could be made whole.
2. There's a new covenant, in His blood, not your works.

In the Philippines I read they do public crucifixion in remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion. NO! You don't need to be sacrificed or to offer God a sacrifice - except for praise for what He's done.

Focus on what GOD has said. What GOD has done. What GOD accomplished on the Cross - because that's humility and that's where all the grace flows!