

Humble Acts of Service

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Martin Luther once said: "God creates out of nothing, and until a man is nothing, God can make nothing out of him". This implies that we must empty ourselves of all that may get in the way of God's purpose for our life. We must surrender our will to His. How does that happen? HUMILITY! James says it best in his 4th chapter: "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up" (Verse 10). James first addresses this subject in verse 6 when he reminds us that "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble". There are no greater issues that we struggle with daily than pride and humility. Pride is the greatest manifestation of sin and humility is the quality that most aligns us with our heavenly father. Pride and humility are opposites. Pride elevates oneself above others, while humility elevates others above self. Paul encourages us to "do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourself" (Phil 2:3).

One way to achieve humility is through selfless acts of service. I can think of no better time than right now to practice selfless acts of service as we face a new future at St. Mark's. This is a time for all of us to step up and serve each other. Oddly enough, it's the simple acts of service that shine the brightest, as simple as sweeping the floor of the Fellowship Hall after an event. Jesus demonstrated humility when He embraced the position and duties of a servant and washed the feet of His disciples the night before He was unjustly crucified. It would have been easy for Him to say: "whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matt 23:12). He knew the apostles needed to see humility in action if they were to fully grasp and understand how radical His message of love truly was. For if we refuse to die to self, we will remain held captive by our pride and be of little use to the kingdom of heaven. However, if we choose to submit and obey the truth of God's word which commands us to humble ourselves, we will be exalted, in His time.

What about you? Are you able to humble yourself in service to your church? There are so many opportunities on the horizon. As I am writing this, we are starting the annual Rummage Sale. This major summer event is a great opportunity to get involved with service work. We usually get hundreds of various types of clothing, all of which need to be sorted, categorized, and either folded or hung on hangers. It is a perfect example of a humble act of service. We can also always use more ushers and communion servers. In addition, almost every existing committee has openings for people. You don't have to possess an amazing ability in anything in order to serve. The best "ability" is "availability". Search your heart and ask God where you can best serve. The voice of pride says: "I don't have time to serve". The voice of humility says: "Where can I serve". Which voice will you listen to?