

RETURNING TO THE LORD

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

He has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. 2 Timothy 1:9

PSALM 51:14-17

Deliver me, O God,

You who are God my Savior,

and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise.

GOD’S WORD TO US: Micah 6:8

He has told you, O people, what is good; and what He, the LORD, requires of you: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

REFLECTION

The first thing we can say about a Christian is this: it’s part of his/her character. If a person does justice, and loves mercy, it is almost certain that he/she will walk humbly with God. Why? Because it’s impossible to truly do justice without recognizing who God is; it’s impossible to truly love mercy without knowing the merciful God. God has so ordered things as to make this a necessity. Otherwise, our pride in being saintly would overwhelm us, and we would dispense quickly with mercy and justice. All of this may be summed up on one little point. Our service to God is often described as “fruit.” We are cautioned to stay “on the vine” so that we will bear “much fruit.” As we do, remember: the branch that bends the lowest bears the most fruit.

OUR PRAYER: Philippians 2:5-11

In our relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 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! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

LITANY of HUMILITY

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| O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, | R. <i>Hear me.</i> |
| From the desire of being admired, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the desire of being loved, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the desire of being cheered, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the desire of being honored, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the desire of being praised, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the desire of being consulted, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the desire of being approved, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the fear of being humiliated, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the fear of being despised, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the fear of suffering rebukes, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the fear of being forgotten, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the fear of being ridiculed, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |
| From the fear of being wronged, | R. <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> |

“Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7

We must train ourselves to be humble to God, humble to His word, humble toward ourselves, and humble toward one another.

