

IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE!

As we near the end of our concentrated study of the Pentateuch and Moses, let's not neglect to examine a very important verse which reveals a characteristic from the life of Moses that is very much needed today. Numbers 12:3 reveals: "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth."

Why is this verse significant? How does one attain this quality of life known as 'humility'?

To begin, let's verify from Scripture Moses' humility.

Moses Humbled Himself:

In the sight of the people...Numbers 14:5; 16:4

On behalf of the people...Exodus 32:10-13; 30-32; Numbers 14:12-20; 16:22

Concerning his authority as leader...Numbers 11:28-29

Before the presence of God...Exodus 34:8-9

As we see from these examples, Moses demonstrated true humility. But how does a person become humble? This usually happens one of two ways: either humble yourself or be humbled! Neither thought is pleasurable, but humility is required of a servant of God (Micah 6:8), and humbling yourself is much less 'humiliating' than being humbled.

The following passages list several examples of each.

On Humbling Yourself:

...Abraham...Genesis 13:8-9

...Hezekiah...2 Kings 19:14-19

...Ezra...Ezra 9:3-15

...Mordecai/Esther...Esther 4:1; 4:15-16

...David...Psalm 37:1-11

On Being Humbled:

...Pharaoh...Exodus 12:31-32

...Samson...Judges 16:21, 25, 28

...Saul...1 Samuel 15:24-28

...Nebuchadnezzar...Daniel 4:35

Don't be deceived into thinking humbling yourself is a once-for-all accomplishment!

Moses humbled himself in the previously listed examples, but did not humble himself and obey God when he was told to speak to the rock. Instead, he struck it in anger and was humbled by being forbidden to enter the promised land.

Job humbled himself (Job 1:20-21), but was again to be humbled by God in Chapters 38-41 (resulting in Job 42:1-6).

For those who desire to be godly, the choice is not whether or not to be humble (James 4:6); the choice lies in how we are humbled. See James 4:10 for the right way to be humbled before God!

In conclusion, study carefully John 13:1-17 for a beautiful illustration (as well as a very important lesson) concerning humility.