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James 1:5-8

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

**Can our obedience be depended upon?** Can those around us **count on us** to do the right thing for the right reason? Have you created an expectation in them that you will obey God with the next thing you face?

That is what we will be dealing with today.

Our text in Chapter 30 begins with **Isaiah 30:1**

<sup>1</sup> "**Woe to the rebellious children,**" says the LORD, "**Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;**

There is a truth in this verse that I passed by two weeks ago.

How do we add sin to sin?

Have you ever considered that **God does not bless our plans?** We have had a lifetime of plans that we can easily see that God did not bless. He **used** them. But he did not **bless** them. Why? God only blesses that which comes from Him. Even plans to **obey God** that do not come from a heart **changed by God** will not be blessed.

So how do we add sin to sin? Well first we have to ask, what is the first sin? I think it is logical that if the most important commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, then the first sin we commit is to refuse to do just that. Then anything we do, no matter how much we tip our hat to God, is just adding sin to sin. The Jewish leaders had been displaying what they thought of God in their day to day decisions. Sure, they did their religious duty, but not from an **all encompassing love** for God. So when it came to **providing for themselves**, they were going to chase after what they thought was best for them, not really caring what God wanted. Going to get help from Egypt was not an **exception** to

their lives. It was a **logical extension** of their lives. Their actions represented their heart's condition. They would have argued that they were doing lots of good things. They could have pointed to good behavior and bad behavior. And they would have said, no one is perfect. They would have said, but **look at how much we are doing** for God. They would not have hit an equals button that said that what they were doing was **adding sin to sin**. The million dollar question for us is how to avoid that.

Sometimes we want to see the sin we commit as an exception in our lives. We want to see it as an unfortunate event, isolated from the rest of our life. When in reality it is most often a **logical extension** of our life decisions. We are probably all here because we value being right with God to some degree. So we come to church and do the things that we would feel guilty for **if we didn't do them**. But the real question is, why do we exist? What do we really see as **the purpose for us breathing**? What is the most compelling priority in our lives? What is it that our minds gravitate to all day long? What is all-encompassing to us?

Is it centered on **God** or is it centered on **self**? Do we spend most of our energy getting what **God** wants in our families, or what we want? Do we want **God** most appreciated, or **ourselves** most appreciated? Do we want **God** most respected, or **ourselves** most catered to? Does it bother us most when **God** is ignored and not considered, or when **we** are ignored and not considered?

You know what the problem is? We cannot make much of God and make much of ourselves at the same time. That is the problem.

This state of adding sin to sin is a great danger. We need to avoid it. Let's find out what God has to say to us about that.

Let's take a look at what James has to say.

#### **James 1:5-8**

**<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

There is a problem here with a double minded man. What is that? Is the problem, as some think, not being able to drum up enough faith that God will do some specific thing that they think God should do? No. The problem isn't in **the instance**. It is in his **way of life**. He is not expressing a double minded **thought**. He is displaying the fruit of a double minded **life**. The double minded man wants two things. That is the problem. He wants God. And He wants world. And he thinks he can have both. And when faced with decisions, he finds it very hard to make up his mind which he wants at any given time. He is unstable.

Sometimes he will choose a faithful looking thing. Sometimes he will pick a selfish thing. And he will keep going back and forth. He has to. His behavior is a natural extension of his heart condition. And his heart condition is either caused or displayed, or both, by how he thinks. He is double minded, double thinking.

Verse 6 in James 1 says- **let him ask in faith, with no doubting**

What does that mean? Does it mean the person praying must have a perfect understanding of what God is going to do and must ask perfectly for that thing to be done? No. The faith is not **in the prayer he prays**. The faith is **in the God he prays to**.

This “ask in faith” kind of praying trusts in God’s character, His purpose and His promises. Is it any surprise we are back to talking about trust again? This kind of praying is placing one’s self in God’s hands and fully trusting in His provisions. It is someone who is “all in”. He is not trusting two things. He is trusting one thing. He is not saying in His mind, if **God does not give me the desired outcome**, I will find another way to get it. If God will not give me what I want, that is ok because I am pretty sure I can drum up a plan B.

The kind of faith James is talking about is the kind like Abraham’s where, if God does not come through for Abraham, Abraham is going to be without recourse. If God does not provide land, Abraham will be homeless. If God does not provide a sacrifice, Abraham would be less his chosen son. And we see the one possible mistake Abraham made when he took matters into his own hands. He didn’t wait long enough for God’s provision. That did not work out so well for his chosen descendants.

Our prayers should be made in complete dependence upon who God is. That is a prayer in faith. And then, with the same trust, we believe those specific things that He promised. We refuse to allow our perceptions and “how things seem to be” used to call God a liar. We trust Him. That is what faith looks like. And without living and abiding in that foundation of faith it is impossible to please God.

But that is not the picture of the double minded man.

**he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.**

The problem with the double minded man is that he is controlled by more than one force.

This is what happens when we will not trust God. We have lost our anchor. We have lost the one fixed point. When we **refuse** to trust God, or think that **we cannot trust Him**, our life loses its purposefulness. We live for **many** things. We are driven by whatever exterior forces are the strongest at the moment. Our behavior will be more driven by the people we are around than any conviction given by God’s Holy Spirit. The current political setting will have more effect on our life than God’s word. The next situation we face will have us going from high

to low to high to low. There is no stabilizing force, no truth that orients us and helps us keep perspective in everything. Nothing that keeps our behavior dependably and predictably Christian.

I like how MacArthur describes this. He says

**The double minded man does not renounce God, but he acts as if God doesn't exist, doesn't care, or isn't capable of delivering him from trouble. He knows something of God's Word and of God's love, grace, and providence; but he refuses to avail himself of those divine resources.**

*MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – James.*

Now how can you tell if a person is double minded? How do we know if **we** are double minded?

Our text says the double minded man is unstable in all he does. Instability results in unpredictability. What does this look like?

This is what it looks like. You never know what you are going to get out of this person from day to day. One day you may get the most godly behavior. You may sense a sincere desire to do the right thing. It is most convincing. Because as far as it goes, it is real. The person may want to follow God and love God. They may be excited about the things of God and may want to learn about God. They may seem to have a fresh devotion to evangelism or discipleship. They look like they are on fire. They are enthusiastic. They look like the real deal.

So about the time you begin to depend upon them for godly behavior you get just the opposite. You find them wrapped up in behavior or attitudes that God strictly forbids. You will find them using their bodies, minds and tongues exactly as they feel like. They act as if they don't care about what God says. There is an internal wind in them blowing in a completely different direction.

The easiest way to identify the double minded person is that you don't know what you will get out of them from day to day. One day it will be ultra spiritual. The next day it will be unrestrained flesh. And the person will view themselves and describe themselves as the victims of the forces upon them. They will think, "How can I help my behavior with these strong winds blowing in my life?" And that is how they will describe their behavior as well.

Now what does James list as the remedy to this problem? This is where we will spend the remainder of our time this morning.

#### **James 4:7-10**

**<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

He starts with “submit to God” and then specifically tells the double minded man to purify his heart. What does that mean? What is purity? Purity is simple. It is free from contaminants. It is all of one thing. Pure gold is gold that is nothing but gold. Pure hearts are hearts that are free from all motives but pleasing God.

Now James started this list with the command to submit to God. Submit to God. This is not **“add God to your life”**. It is not, **serve God by scheduling to do good stuff**. It is not **meet your minimum requirements of church attendance**. It is not **meet your quota of bible reading and prayer**. It is not, **devote yourself to evangelistic efforts**. It isn’t even, **“Be excited about God”**. All of that stuff can be done without ever submitting to God. All of that stuff can be done as sin added to sin. In fact it can be doubly dangerous because it can be the cover under which we commit our sin. We can fool ourselves about our hearts by looking at our occasional good behavior and our good intentions.

No, we start with submission. We bring to God that which is His and we offer it with open hands to His provision and guidance. We start with the core of our problem, our rebellious hearts. We start with our inclination to hide or run or rebel that we got from our oldest brother Adam and our oldest sister Eve. And we do business with the deepest core of the problem. We come to God telling the truth about ourselves and submitting the whole of who we are to Him. That is the beginning of the solution. That is where the solution starts. Mike used to quote either Wes Lammy or Murph Polan a lot by saying that becoming a Christian is giving all that you know of yourself to all that you know of God. That is what this is talking about.

To submit is to **subject oneself**, to obey; to submit to one’s control; to yield to one’s admonition or advice: absolutely

*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.*

That is where the solution starts and nothing else is the solution.

We say that Jesus is Lord. There is nothing wrong with the word Lord. It is a wonderful word, rich with meaning. But I fear it is much like the words “love” and “hope”. They have taken on a different meaning with us than what they originally meant, than what the Bible means.

When we say that Jesus is my Lord, the word Lord has often taken on an emotional fondness. What we mean is Christ is our rescuer, our hero, our counsellor. And that really isn’t what is conveyed here.

When this says Submit yourselves to God it means accept Jesus as your boss. Accept Jesus as your sergeant. Accept Jesus as your absolute dictator. Those words capture very well what is stated here.

The problem with the double minded man is that he will not restrict his behavior to the boss-hood of God. He will not do what Sergeant Jesus commands. He will

not do what King God demands. He doesn't even view his life that way. He does not see Christianity that way.

So if God's word says one thing but my emotions or desires say another, I get to pick which one I want. Every temptation is a new decision. And double mindedness will do the sin under the cover of powerlessness. The wind is so powerful. You just don't know. That is how the double minded live.

This would be a good time to ask again, how predictable is our obedience to God? If someone expects that we will obey God today, no matter how hard it is to do so, how often will they be right? Or have we taught those around us that our behavior is a crap shoot? They really have no idea from day to day what will come out of us?

There is a great danger in the Christian life. The danger is carrying out our Christian "duties" while maintaining a double minded state. That is probably the greatest danger of self deception we can have. We can look at the evidence of the tasks we perform and the services we provide and the obligations we fulfill and the missions we are involved in and be pleased with our Christian status. And we can do all of that without looking to see **what it is we really love, who it is we really submit to, what it is we really live for**. The best thing that can happen to us in a double minded state is for us to sin in ways that are humiliating even to us, ways that even repulse us. That is a severe mercy to a double minded man. That may be the thing that will cause us to go to the starting block of living the Christ filled life. Submission.

Everything prior to our **whole hearted submission to Christ** in our lives is simply **training from God** that shows that **we do not know how to live our lives**. It is convincing evidence that **our way does not work**. It is evidence we can refer back to when we are tempted to live the way we feel like living. And we can know that, without a shadow of a doubt, it will not work out well.

Why is it that we so quickly gravitate to our own resources? Why is it we so quickly trust our impulses or perceptions or reactions? Why do we allow ourselves to get so out of God's guidance for our lives? When will we ever learn? It never works for the Christian. It never produces anything of value. It never leaves us with anything good to show for it.

I guess we do it because we can and because we want to.

To submit is harder. Yielding requires going against all our natural reflexes. And it is as equally hard for the timid person as for the bold person. True submission does not come easily to anyone. Oh sure, we are glad to submit when it means **we can get someone else to carry a burden we didn't want to carry**, when it **relieves us from the burden of responsibility for our lives**. But true life submission admits the other's right to lead in EVERYTHING. That is always hard on pride.

I can still remember as a kid being told by my mom to do chores around the house that I didn't know about ahead of time. It used to make me so mad. And as long as I blamed my mom for my anger I could get myself off the hook in my head. But I was a Christian and I knew what the Bible said. It said pesky things like obey your father and mother. It was a bad day when I connected those dots. The problem wasn't my mom's style. It wasn't her uncaring intent. It wasn't her inconsideration of me that was the problem. The problem **with me was me**. I had a proud and unruly heart that did not want to be told what to do. And I knew right then the battle that needed to be fought was **between my ears**. I liked it much better when I could be angry with my mom. It is harder being angry with one's self.

Do you have the same problem? This is pretty easy to discern. When is the last time you were **told to do something you didn't want to do** by **someone who had the authority to tell you**? How did you respond? Did you instantly find a problem with that? Maybe the problem you found was in *the way they asked*, or **when** they asked, **the timing** in which they asked, or **their tone of voice** when they asked, or **what** they asked. Were you quick to find fault with what your authority did? Did it even dawn on you that maybe **you are the problem in that equation**? Did it dawn on you that all of the things you find fault in are just a way to get yourself off the hook? Do you really expect your heart to tell you the truth? Do you really expect it to offer to take the blame it is due?

We taught our kids that when we gave a command we expected them to obey it. If they had a question about it, or a suggestion, they could come to us later and we would discuss it. But we wanted them to understand obedience was the proper first response. Maybe we as adults should revisit that principle. Maybe when we are given a command by someone who has the authority to make the command we should just obey it before we begin our commentary. Just because we are adults does not mean that we do not need to submit to authority. And submitting to our human authorities is good practice for our submission to God. If we could pick and choose where we wanted to submit and where we didn't want to submit with God it would be easier. But when we submit to God, we submit the whole package, all that we are. We say, and mean, "thy will be done". We end up giving up things **we don't want** control over and things **we do want control over**. We gain things **we don't want** and **things that do**. And we do not get to decide. True total submission of who we are gladly can only come when we have **absolute trust** in the one who we are submitting to.

We don't naturally want to be subservient. We don't like accepting the boss-hood of God. But that is the beginning of the cure for doublemindedness. It does not seem spiritual. There is very little that is warm or fond that surrounds this act. But it does not matter how much excitement, or exuberance, or enthusiasm,

or sincerity, or energy, or optimism we bring to our Christian lives. Until we submit to the boss-hood of God, until we say, I am yours to use as you see fit, we are not ready to live the Christian life as it is to be lived. Until this happens our lives are like a fishing bobber after a big boat goes by- up, then down, then up, then down.

But once we truly submit our hearts to God, our lives will begin to even out. We can be counted on to do what God says, not because it is immediately appealing, not because our flesh likes it, not because it fits our fancy or our moods. We will do it because Jesus is boss and he deserves it.

And with this comes a power that the double minded man never gets. It is the power of virtue. It is that thing that is so painfully absent in our recent string of headlines.

Virtue does the right thing for the right reason, solely because it is the right thing to do, no matter what it costs to do so. Virtue refuses to do the wrong thing solely because it is wrong, no matter what could have been gained.

Virtue doesn't negotiate or deliberate. It doesn't arbitrate. Its decisions are as easy to make as they are hard to carry out.

Also the single minded person is free to love Christ without worrying about everything else. They are like Mary who just wanted to be with Christ. She focused on Him rather than herself. Martha, on the other hand had lots of other focusses. She worried about her service to Christ. She worried about what everyone else was doing. The double minded person wants to do a lot of stuff, but they can't seem to ever find any satisfaction in the service they provide. They always need to get something else. They simply will not focus on the one thing that matters.

The single minded man does the virtuous thing, the obedient thing, for a simple reason. This person seeks to love God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. And he does this fully knowing that he does so because God loved him first. He trusts God.

As that trust grows we begin to be more confident in the one we trust. Diane posted a quote of AW Tozer that I think reflects where a heart sits when it truly trusts who God really is. He says:

**Outside of the will of God, there is nothing I want. In the will of God there is nothing I fear. AW Tozer**

That is the wise heart, the trusting heart, the submitted heart. That is the heart of wisdom. (read again)

After the command to submit to God comes everything else in James 4:7. The next instruction is **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

I think often the devil does not flee because we don't put first things first. We want **some** of God's will, but not **all** of it. We want **some** of His protection and

provision, but not **all** of it. We want room for both ours and God's, and the devil knows he doesn't need to give any quarter to us in that state. But when we submit, fully submit, now he is in danger. He can no longer have His way. In Matt 4:11 we see how Christ stood up to the devil. This resistance did not come without a battle. It does not say **intend** to resist the devil and he will flee from you. We need to do the resisting. And we resist, just like Christ did, with the sword of the Lord. We replace all the fiery darts, all the lies that the devil flings at us that are intended to spread their deadly effect in our hearts, with truth that quenches those flames when we place our faith in those truths.

But we can do that when our lives are being lived in faith, not in a double minded faithless state. Our behavior can become more predictable, more dependable. Now, if one side of this statement is true, the other side must be true as well. If we **will not resist the devil**, he **will not flee from us**. That is why there are so many admonitions in scripture to **flee immorality that we can flee** and **fight immorality we can fight**. There are some things that are simply too dangerous to our souls to even give the time of day. There are others that we cannot avoid so we must continually fight them with the expectation that, in Christ, we will win both the current battle and, in the end, the war.

Romans makes it very clear that sin no longer has any more power over us than we choose to give it. The devil never makes a Christian sin. We choose to either believe and trust God. Or we choose to disbelieve God and sin. But we have the power given to us by Christ to win. And we have the promises to fuel that victory now.

**<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**

Do you believe this? Do you really, in your heart of hearts, believe this? This is as much a promise as it is a command. **GOD WILL DRAW NEAR TO US!** As we give up **the rights to live however we feel like** and **submit to God's rule over our lives**, as we resist the devil's attacks because we are submitting to the Lordship of Christ, as we exhibit a true submitted relationship to Christ and draw near to God, God will draw near to us.

This is what we all need. We think and feel like we need a million things. But what we need most is **relational closeness to Christ**. In the Old Testament, to draw near to God was an expression for someone who sincerely approached God in repentance and humility. It was again, someone giving all they knew of themselves to all they knew of God.

David said this:

**Psalm 73:28**

**<sup>28</sup> But *it is* good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.**

David was a human just like us. This drawing near is something we can do. We are capable of it. Christ has provided this opportunity. Essentially this is telling us that **we are as close to God as what we want to be**. The hindrance is not on God's end. It is always on ours.

### **Psalm 145:18-20**

**<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.**

**<sup>19</sup> He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. <sup>20</sup> The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.**

Again, these are the words from God. We can come up with all kinds of ways **not to believe this**, but all those ways are offensive. If I tell Carla "I love you and I am here for you", but she never comes to me with concerns she has that upset her and that she tells to everyone else, I am not going to blame myself for our lack of closeness. It would be obvious that she had no confidence in me. At the same time, as she comes to me with those burdens she carries so I can share them with her, only then does she experience the truth of my promise.

That is how it is with us and God. God is not insecure like we are. So it isn't like we hurt God's feelings or cause him to feel resentful or insecure like we would. He is never reacting. He is always acting.

God is quick to move in our direction. He ran to the prodigal son in the parable. God is **really really** like that, whether we believe it or not. He wants to be near to us. He wants us to gain every advantage in His relationship to us. That is where His heart is at. He will fulfill the desires that are in our lives as a result of the work **He is doing** in our lives. If what we want is more of Him, we will have more of Him.

That is what He says. Now, are we calling God a liar or what?

Could anyone tell, by watching our lives, that we really trust that the more we pursue God, the more He pursues us? Would they ever get the idea that we are confident that our prayers and study of God is something that we are absolutely sure will pay off in being closer to God? Do our lives have any resemblance to a lover who is separated temporarily from their loved one and just wants to be as close as he can possibly be during the interim?

**Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

What this is telling us is that the problem between us and God is always on our side. God never has to change. He never has to improve His attitude. He never has to stop doing what He is doing or do something else. Nope. The problem with us is us.

We need to change both our behavior, **our hands**, and our attitudes, **our hearts**. We are good at sin and at being non-committal with God. But that is not God's fault. It is ours. We need the change. And the beauty of it is, we can. And again

it starts with submitting everything, all that we are to God. Then we can confess our sins and God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then as we look at our hearts, we see stuff that should not be there. We see stuff that has nothing to do with God's work in our hearts. We see fleshly attitudes of pride and greed and lust and worry and vanity and anger and on and on. And we have the opportunity to do some purifying. Christ has already paid for the sin. We can't do that. But **we can** put truth where lies are currently. We can tell the truth about ourselves to God and ourselves. We can do that.

And what does that look like?

Is that process fun and joyful? Well no. Not exactly. Any more than surgery to remove a life threatening tumor is fun and joyful. This is what it looks like.

**<sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.**

We need to get this. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not always pleasant. Sometimes it hurts like crazy to see ourselves as we truly are. And if a human is used to convey that truth, it is not their fault that it hurts. It is supposed to hurt. I think human beings value laughter too much and tears too little. The wisest man ever born, other than Jesus, said this.

**Ecclesiastes 2:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also *was* vanity. <sup>2</sup> I said of laughter--"Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?"**

**Ecclesiastes 7:1-4**

**<sup>1</sup> A good name *is* better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth; <sup>2</sup> Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that *is* the end of all men; And the living will take *it* to heart. <sup>3</sup> Sorrow *is* better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. <sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise *is* in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.**

As much as we don't like it God uses pain more productively than pleasure in the lives of most Christians. **Sorrow about sin**, when viewed in its most truthful state, **is a wonderful thing**. It is not bad. It is good. Because it accomplishes very good things in a believer's life. We prefer pleasure over pain. There is no problem there. We will have an eternity of pleasure, so there is nothing wrong with pleasure. But in this life we need some pain to keep our perspective. We need pain to give us depth and seriousness. And we need to feel the consequences of our rebellion against God **now** so we do not experience it for an eternity.

And what is the end result of this process?

**<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

God draws near to us when we draw near to Him. And now he lifts us up when we lay ourselves low.

Remember that humbling ourselves is not to place ourselves in a lower state than we deserve. True humility is really only seeing ourselves as we truly accurately are. Just as praise is truth telling about the wonderfulness of God, humility is truth telling about the fallenness of man. To humble ourselves is to reduce ourselves to the truth about ourselves with no idealistic trappings. Humility is admitting- yes that is me. Humility is the double minded man saying, I see it now. You are right God. I am the problem. I want two things and I refuse to submit to your boss hood. That is what it looks like to humble one's self.

Oh how wonderful God is to us to always provide us the ministry we most need from Him. He never allows us to grovel in the dirt, although that is exactly what we deserve. He picks us up from the dirt, brushes us off, and sets us in a desired seat in His family. Why? We don't know. All we know is that it is Like Him to do so. Why us? There is absolutely no good reason for **why us**. The closest I can figure is that it is just like God to pick out the least deserving in order to show off His grace. But it is so wonderful that He does.

So, will we be guilty of adding sin to sin, trying to live for ourselves and God at the same time? Or are we willing to say "Yes Sir, I'll obey sir" to Sergeant Jesus? Will we tell the truth to both Him and ourselves about ourselves. And will we draw near to Him, knowing that is what God has been waiting for in order to bless our lives with more of Himself?