

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 72

TITLE: TRUE GREATNESS

TEXT: LUKE 9:46-50

INTRODUCTION: (1) NOTHING COMES MORE
EASILY TO FALLEN SINFUL HUMAN BEINGS
THAN PRIDE.

* PRIDE MANIFESTS ITSELF IN MANY WAYS, BUT
MOST CLEARLY IN SELF-LOVE, SELF-
CENTEREDNESS, SELF-FULFILLMENT AND SELF-
PROMOTION.

** PRIDE IS THE DEFINING SIN OF FALLEN
MANKIND.

*** PRIDE IS THE SOIL IN WHICH SIN SPROUTS,
TAKES ROOT AND GROWS INTO POISONOUS
FRUIT.

**** PRIDE IS THE DAMNING SIN THAT WAS AT THE ROOT OF SATAN'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD AND SOUGHT TO TOPPLE HIM FROM HIS THRONE AS KING AND SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE UNIVERSE.

(2) PRIDE WAS THE ROOT SIN OF ADAM AND EVE, PLUNGING THE HUMAN RACE INTO SIN.

* AND THAT SELF-ESTEEM OR PRIDE HAS BEEN RECLASSIFIED AS A VIRTUE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY TRULY SHOWS THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY AND DECEPTION.

** AND ONLY WHEN PRIDE IS DIVINELY OVERCOME BY CONVICTION OF ONE'S SINFULNESS CAN A PERSON TRULY REPENT AND COME TO SAVING FAITH.

*** AND AT CONVERSION, PRIDE IS BROKEN; HOWEVER BY NO MEANS IS IT PERMANENTLY DEFEATED.

*** THEREFORE SANCTIFICATION CAN BE LOOKED AT THIS WAY, SANCTIFICATION IS THE PROGRESSIVE TRIUMPH OF HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS OVER PRIDE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

(3) AND SINCE SANCTIFICATION IS THE PROCESS OF BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST, THE MORE WE ARE LIKE HIM, THE MORE HUMBLE WE ARE AS HE WAS THE MOST HUMBLE AND MEEK PERSON WHO EVER WALKED ON THE PLANET. JESUS WAS THE ULTIMATE SERVANT, QUOTE MATTHEW 11:28-30 AND PHILIPPIANS 4:5-8.

* AND BELOVED, THOSE SCRIPTURES REMIND US THAT THERE WAS NO GREATER TEACHER OR EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY, THAN OUR LORD.

** AND OUR LORD WILL TEACH A SHORT LESSON TO HIS DISCIPLES TODAY IN OUR TEXT ON HUMILITY.

*** FOR HIS DISCIPLES AT THIS POINT ARE ARGUING AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT WHICH ONE OF THEM WAS THE GREATEST.

**** AND THEIR QUARREL REFLECTED THE PREVAILING PRIDEFUL ATTITUDE IN THEIR RELIGIOUS CULTURE FOR LEADERS IN JUDAISM IN THAT DAY EXHIBITED THEIR PRIDE OPENLY AS A SYMBOL OF THEIR SPIRITUALITY.

(4) AND THEY DID THAT BY ENLARGING THE TASSELS OF THEIR ROBES AND THEIR PHYLACTERIES ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 23:5 AND MAKING A BIG DEAL OF FASTING BEFORE PEOPLE, PRAYING BEFORE PEOPLE AND DOING THE ALMSGIVING BEFORE PEOPLE.

* BEYOND THAT, THEY LOOKED DOWN ON COMMON PEOPLE AND GENTILES AS BEING BENEATH THEM AND KNEW NOTHING OF HUMBLE SERVANT LEADERSHIP. AND THOSE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WERE THE MODELS OF RELIGION IN THAT DAY. HOW SAD!

** AND LET ME SAY, PRIDE IS THAT EVER ELUSIVE QUALITY THAT WHEN WE THINK WE HAVE IT, WE LOSE IT.

*** I MEAN IF I SAY TO YOU TODAY, I'M PROUD OF MY HUMILITY, OBVIOUSLY I DON'T HAVE IT, OR IF I DID I LOST IT.

**** AND CERTAINLY PRIDE IS A SIN THAT ALL OF US DEAL WITH DAILY. HENCE CHRIST'S LESSON ON HUMILITY WILL BE VERY PRACTICAL FOR ALL OF US.

(5) AND I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY TODAY, TRUE GREATNESS. AND WHO ARE THE TRULY GREAT? THE HUMBLE. THOSE WHO SERVE, THE LEAST AMONG US.

* AND WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS AS WE WORK THROUGH LUKE 9:46-50. NO. 1 THE ARGUMENT AMONG THE DISCIPLES, V. 46; NO. 2 THE ANSWER FROM JESUS, VV. 47&48; NO. 3 THE ATTEMPT BY JOHN AND SOME OF THE DISCIPLES TO PRESENT A MAN CASTING OUT DEMONS IN JESUS' NAME, V. 49; AND NO. 4 THE ACTIONS JESUS CALLS FOR, V. 50.

** AND WITH THOSE 4 POINTS AS OUR GUIDE, LOOK AT V. 46 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE ARGUMENT.

I. THE ARGUMENT, (READ V. 46)

A. NOW I WANT TO REMIND YOU ABOUT THE CONTEXT HERE. EARLIER IN LUKE 9:23-26, JESUS TOLD THE DISCIPLES ABOUT THAT IF ANYONE WANTS TO COME AFTER ME, THEY MUST BE WILLING TO DENY THEMSELVES AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.

* AND THEN IN THE PRECEDING TEXT BEFORE THE ONE WE ARE LOOKING AT TODAY, IN LUKE 9:44&45, JESUS TALKED ABOUT HIS COMING DEATH, AND HE TALKED ABOUT IT EARLIER IN LUKE 9:22.

** AND BEYOND THAT IN HIS TRANSFIGURATION IN LUKE 9:31, MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEAR IN GLORY AND WERE SPEAKING ABOUT CHRIST'S DEPARTURE WHICH HE WAS ABOUT TO ACCOMPLISH IN JERUSALEM.

*** AND THE WORD DEPARTURE LIT. MEANS EXODUS, AND THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT JESUS' DEATH.

**** NOW 3 TIMES IN LUKE 9, JESUS' COMING DEATH IS COMMUNICATED, AND TWO OF THE 3 TIMES DIRECTLY BY JESUS TO THE APOSTLES. PLUS THE DISCIPLES ARE TOLD THEY NEED TO DENY THEMSELVES, TAKE UP THEIR CROSS - TO DIE TO SELF AND FOLLOW CHRIST.

1. NOW ALL THOSE WORDS ARE SOBERING WORDS, HUMBLING WORDS, SERIOUS WORDS ABOUT SERVICE AND SUFFERING.

* SO ARE THE APOSTLES ARGUING ABOUT HOW THEY CAN SUFFER AND SERVE THEIR LORD IN A GREATER WAY, ABOUT HOW BLESSED THEY ARE TO HAVE A LORD AND SAVIOR THAT WILL SUFFER FOR THEM AND SAVE THEM?

** ARE THEY ARGUING ABOUT WHO CAN BE FIRST IN LINE TO SERVE AND HOW THEY CAN HUMBLY SERVE THEIR LORD?

*** THE ANSWER IS NO. THEY ARE ARGUING, DISPUTING AS TO WHICH OF THEM IS THE GREATEST!

2. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?

* AND MY ANSWER IS YES. WHY? ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TAKE AN HONEST LOOK AT MY OWN LIFE.

** HOW SOMETIMES I WANT THE EASY PATH TO SERVE THE LORD. HOW I THINK OF MYSELF FIRST AT TIMES RATHER THAN LAST.

*** HOW I WANT TO DEFEND MY SELF FIRST WHEN I AM MISUNDERSTOOD AND DEFEND THE LORD SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE.

**** HOW I WANT CREDIT FOR SOMETHING I'VE DONE THAT SOMEONE GIVES THE CREDIT TO SOMEBODY ELSE, OR FOR SOMETHING I'VE DONE SACRIFICIALLY THAT'S NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED, OR HOW I AM OFFENDED ABOUT SOMETHING, NOT FOR THE LORD, BUT FOR ME.

3. AND WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, NO, I'M NOT SURPRISED THAT THE DISCIPLES ARE ARGUING ABOUT WHO'S THE GREATEST, FOR IN REALITY, IF I WERE THERE, I THINK I WOULD HAVE BEEN TALKING OVER EVERYONE INCLUDING PETER AND THE MOUTH.

* BELOVED, PRIDE IS A SIN THAT IS ALWAYS KNOCKING ON MY DOOR, WANTING ME TO LET IT IN MY LIFE, AND I DO WAY TOO OFTEN.

** AND GOING BACK TO THE DISCIPLES, THEY WERE STILL FOCUSED ON THE CROWN, NOT THE CROSS. THEY WERE STILL FOCUSED ON THE GLORY, NOT THE SUFFERING.

*** AND WE NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THIS, PRIDE HURTS RELATIONSHIPS. WHAT ARE THE DISCIPLES DOING ARGUING AMONG THEMSELVES? THEY ARE HAVING A DISPUTE AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT WHO'S THE GREATEST, ABOUT WHICH ONE IS SUPERIOR. PRIDE RESULTS IN RANKING OTHERS BELOW YOURSELF.

**** PRIDE IS SELF-FOCUSED, IT IS INDIFFERENT TO OTHERS. PRIDE RUINS UNITY. FOR RELATIONSHIPS ARE BASED ON LOVING SACRIFICE AND SERVICE; ON SELFLESS DEFERRING TO AND GIVING TO OTHERS.

***** BEYOND THAT, PRIDE IS CRITICAL AND JUDGMENTAL AND THEREFORE DIVISIVE.

4. BECAUSE OF THAT, PRIDE IS THE MOST COMMON DESTROYER BOTH OF RELATIONSHIPS AND CHURCHES, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 3:3 AND PROVERBS 13:10.

* NOW KNOWING THAT PRIDE CAUSES CONTENTION AND MAKES A PERSON THINK THEY ARE BETTER THAN SOMEONE ELSE AND ALWAYS RIGHT, WE NEED TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST IT AND HOW IT REARS ITS UGLY HEAD.

** AND KNOWING THAT PRIDE IS THE WEDGE THAT OUR ADVERSARY USES TO SPLINTER RELATIONSHIPS AND SPLIT CHURCHES, THE LORD WILL ANSWER THE 12'S PRIDE WITH A SHORT BRIEF ILLUSTRATION ABOUT HUMILITY.

*** LOOK AT V. 47 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE ANSWER.

II. THE ANSWER, (READ V. 47)

A. NOW JESUS ANSWERS THEIR PRIDE AND HIS RESPONSE IS PRICELESS.

* FOR SOMETIMES HE SHARPLY ADMONISHED FOR THEIR STUPID CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS. BUT HERE, HE REBUKES THEM BY EMBRACING A CHILD, SOMEONE TOO SMALL, TOO WEAK, TOO DEPENDENT, TOO HELPLESS TO BE GREAT.

** AND THE LORD CHOSE A CHILD TO ILLUSTRATE HUMILITY BECAUSE CHILDREN WERE THE LOWLIEST IN SOCIETY, TREATED AS 2'D CLASS CITIZENS, ONES WITH NO STATUS.

*** HOWEVER, JESUS LOVED CHILDREN. AND IN MARK 9:36 THE PARALLEL TEXT ADDS A LITTLE DETAIL AND SAYS, THAT JESUS TOOK UP THE CHILD INTO HIS ARMS, AND YOU HAVE TO LOVE THAT PICTURE.

**** SO WHAT AN OBJECT LESSON, JESUS HAS A CHILD IN HIS ARMS, JESUS USES A CHILD AS A VISUAL AID BECAUSE AS YOU GO BACK TO THE FIRST PART OF V. 47, JESUS KNEW WHAT THE DISCIPLES WERE THINKING IN THEIR HEARTS, NOTHING CAN BE HIDDEN FROM JESUS.

1. AND BELOVED, JESUS SAW IN HIS OMNISCIENCE THEIR PRIDE, HE SAW THEIR SELFISH HEARTS, AND HERE WE HAVE A CHILD AS A VISUAL AID TO TEACH A SHORT LESSON. AND THE LESSON IS IN V. 48. LOOK AT V. 48 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 48. NOW AGAIN CHILDREN ARE NEEDY AND DEPENDENT. AND IF YOU RECALL FROM OUR STUDY OF MATTHEW 18 LAST WEEK, A CHILD IS SYMBOLIC OF A BELIEVER.

* IT IS TO SAY, JESUS WAS NOT SPEAKING OF THAT PARTICULAR CHILD HE WAS HOLDING IN HIS ARMS, BUT WAS USING THAT CHILD TO REPRESENT THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

** AND THE TRUTH IS, NO MATTER HOW LOWLY, UNSOPHISTICATED, IMMATURE OR WEAK A CHILD IS, HERE - A BELIEVER, HE OR SHE MUST BE TREATED AS THE PRECIOUS CHILD OF GOD HE OR SHE TRULY IS.

*** AND TO RECEIVE, ACCEPT, WELCOME A CHILD OF GOD IS EQUAL TO RECEIVING JESUS HIMSELF.

**** LET ME EXPLAIN. THE GREEK VERB TRANSLATED RECEIVES OR WELCOMES OR RECEIVETH DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, LIT. MEANS TO DELIBERATELY AND READILY TAKE SOMETHING OR SOMEONE TO HIMSELF.

1. AND THE TERM WAS OFTEN USED OF WELCOMING HONORED GUESTS AND MENTION THEIR NEEDS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION AND KINDNESS.

* SO CHRIST'S PRIMARY POINT HERE IS THAT A WAY A PERSON TREATS CHRISTIANS IS THE WAY HE TREATS JESUS CHRIST.

** AND THEN HE ADDS, WHOEVER RECEIVES ME, RECEIVES HIM WHO SENT ME, SPEAKING OF HIS FATHER IN HEAVEN.

*** SO HOW BELIEVERS TREAT EACH OTHER IS HOW THEY TREAT THE SON AND THE FATHER. AND SO TO ARGUE WITH ONE ANOTHER, TO DISPUTE WITH ONE ANOTHER OVER WHO IS THE GREATEST IS RIDICULOUS. WE ARE FAMILY.

**** FORGET ABOUT YOURSELF, CONCENTRATE ON EACH OTHER. WE ARE TO CARE FOR EACH OTHER LIKE WE CARE FOR PRECIOUS LITTLE CHILDREN. CHILDREN MAY APPEAR TO BE INSIGNIFICANT, BUT THEY ARE NOT. AND NO CHILD OF CHRIST IS INSIGNIFICANT.

2. AND THE LAST PART OF V. 48 SHOWS THAT THIS IS THE MEANING AND PULLS IT ALL TOGETHER, FOR AT THE END OF V. 48 SAYS: "FOR THE ONE WHO IS LEAST AMONG ALL OF YOU, THIS IS THE ONE WHO IS GREAT."

* AND BELOVED, THE TRULY GREAT IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM, HIS FOLLOWERS, ARE NOT THOSE WHO CLAW THEIR WAY TO THE TOP AND PURSUE AND SEEK FOR OTHERS TO GIVE THEM HONOR, BUT THOSE WHO HUMBLY DEFER TO OTHERS, LOOKING OUT FOR OTHER'S INTERESTS, NOT THEIR OWN, CONSIDER OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEMSELVES, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 2:3&4 AND ROMANS 12:10.

** TRUE GREATNESS IN THE EYES OF GOD COMES WHEN ONE TAKES THE LOWEST PLACE, SEEKING NO RECOGNITION FOR OURSELVES, BUT SHOWING CONCERN FOR THE WEAK, THE DEPENDENT, THE HELPLESS, LIKE WE WOULD WITH A CHILD.

*** PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY AND I QUOTE: "AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WE ARE CALLED TO CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO USUALLY GET OVERLOOKED BECAUSE TO SOME PEOPLE THEY DO NOT SEEM ALL THAT IMPORTANT LIKE CHILDREN. TRUE SPIRITUAL GREATNESS IS DETERMINED BY THE COMPANY WE KEEP." (END QUOTE)

**** AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, REMEMBER, HOW WE TREAT CHILDREN, HERE THE CHILDREN OF GOD IS HOW WE TREAT CHRIST AND THE FATHER.

3. AND WHAT A SIN IT IS TO PLAY THE KIND OF SPIRITUAL ONE-UPMANSHIP THAT THE 12 PLAYED. THE WAY TO BE GREAT IS TO BE HUMBLE AND NOT SEEK POSITION, BUT OTHERS.

* AND JESUS USES A CHILD TO ILLUSTRATE THIS. NOW MOVING ON VV. 49&50 SEEM TO BE UNCONNECTED TO THIS THERE, BUT THEY ARE NOT. LOOK AT V. 49 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE ATTEMPT.

III. THE ATTEMPT, (READ V. 49)

A. NOW THERE IS DISAGREEMENT OF HOW VV. 49&50 FIT INTO THE FLOW OF VV. 46-48, AND IF IT DOES FIT IN AND EVEN WHAT IT MEANS.

* BUT IT APPEARS TO ME THAT JOHN AT LEAST WAS BEGINNING TO GET WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING, TO UNDERSTAND THE LORD'S MESSAGE.

** FOR IT APPEARS IN LIGHT OF JESUS' SHORT LESSON IN V. 48, JOHN WONDERED WHETHER THE 12 HAD ACTED PROPERLY IN AN EARLIER INCIDENT, AND FEELING SOME GUILT DECIDED TO ASK JESUS ABOUT IT.

*** SO JOHN SAYS, MASTER, WE SAW SOMEONE CASTING OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME; AND WE TRIED TO PREVENT HIM BECAUSE HE DOES NOT FOLLOW ALONG WITH US."

**** NOW THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT, OF THIS UNNAMED MAN CASTING OUT DEMONS IN JESUS' NAME IS NOT RECORDED IN ANY OF THE GOSPELS.

1. AND IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT THIS MAN WAS NOT A PHONY EXORCIST LIKE THE SONS OF SCEVA IN ACTS 19:13&14, FOR HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY CAST OUT DEMONS, AND THAT HE DID IT THROUGH CHRIST, IN CHRIST'S NAME AND WITH CHRIST'S POWER AND AUTHORITY IN DOING IT IN CHRIST'S NAME.

* BUT WHOEVER IT WAS, THE 12 PRIDEFULLY, MAYBE EVEN JEALOUS OF THEIR EXCLUSIVE POSITION, BECAUSE HE AS A BELIEVER, DID NOT TRAVEL WITH THEM, TRIED TO PREVENT, THEY ATTEMPTED TO STOP HIM.

** AND JEALOUSY WHICH IS ROOTED IN PRIDE COULD HAVE BEEN EVEN A BIGGER FACTOR.

*** FOR IN LUKE 9:37-40, AFTER JESUS COMES DOWN WITH PETER, JAMES AND JOHN FROM THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION, THE MAN WHO HAD A SON THAT WAS DEMON POSSESSED POINTED OUT THAT HE BEGGED CHRIST'S DISCIPLES, THE 9 THAT DID NOT GO UP WITH JESUS TO THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION, HE BEGGED THEM, THE 9 TO CAST OUT THE DEMON AND WHAT? THEY COULD NOT.

**** AND THEY ARE APOSTLES, AND THEY ARE TRAVELING FOLLOWING JESUS, BUT THE OTHER GUY WAS NOT, AND MAYBE THE 9 WERE JEALOUS.

2. FOR HE WAS DOING IT AND HE WAS NOT A PART OF THEIR GROUP, SO THEY ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT HIM, TO STOP HIM.

* AND IT APPEARS JOHN KNEW WHAT MOTIVATED THEIR ATTEMPT, NOT LOVE FOR JESUS, BUT PRIDE, JEALOUSY, AND NOW JOHN IS POSSIBLY CONVICTED ABOUT THIS.

** WELL NOTICE CHRIST'S ANSWER, WHICH IS OUR FOURTH AND FINAL POINT TODAY, THE ACTION, THE ACTION THAT JESUS CALLS FOR. LOOK AT V. 50 PLEASE.

IV. THE ACTION, (READ V. 50)

A. NOW JESUS CONFIRMED JOHN'S DOUBT ABOUT HOW THE APOSTLES HANDLED THIS SITUATION WITH THIS BROTHER. AND I SAY BROTHER, FOR NOTICE WHAT JESUS SAID.

* JESUS SAID, "DO NOT HINDER HIM." AND THE WORD HINDER LIT. MEANS PREVENT, STOP, FORBID.

** AND OUR LORD REMOVED ANY DOUBT THAT THIS MAN WAS A GENUINE DISCIPLE, SINCE HE WOULD NEVER HAVE FORBIDDEN THE APOSTLES TO REBUKE A FALSE TEACHER.

*** THIS GUY MOST LIKELY TURNED IN REPENTANT FAITH EARLIER IN JESUS' GALILEAN MINISTRY AS HE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER. AND POSSIBLY THIS MAN WOULD BE INCLUDED AS ONE OF THE 70 THAT WOULD BE SENT OUT IN LUKE 10.

**** BUT PRIDE IS THE ISSUE HERE WITH THE APOSTLES, NOT GOING AFTER HERETICS OR FALSE TEACHERS.

1. JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON LUKE 6-10 AT THIS POINT SAYS AND I QUOTE: "PRIDE PROMOTES EXCLUSIVITY, BUT HUMILITY PROMOTES UNITY. WE CANNOT EMBRACE THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE CHRIST'S BUT DO NOT PREACH THE TRUTH. HOWEVER, WE MUST EMBRACE ALL WHO BOTH NAME THE NAME OF CHRIST AND ALSO SPEAK HIS TRUTH, WHATEVER ORGANIZATION THEY BELONG TO." (END QUOTE)

* NOW THIS IS CONVEYED BY JESUS WITH HIS FINAL WORDS IN V. 50, "FOR HE WHO IS NOT AGAINST YOU IS FOR YOU."

** NOW EVERY PERSON IS EITHER FOR CHRIST OR AGAINST HIM. THERE IS NO IN-BETWEEN OR MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN TRUTH OR ERROR; BETWEEN SOUND DOCTRINE, BIBLICAL TRUTH AND FALSE TEACHING OR HERESY.

*** AND BELOVED, ONLY THOSE WHO PREACH AND TEACH AND COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL CAN BE EMBRACED AS FELLOW SERVANTS AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

**** HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF FIGHTING THE WRONG ENEMY. AND THE MAN CASTING OUT DEMONS WAS NOT AGAINST THEM AND THEREFORE THE 12 HAD NO BUSINESS IN THEIR PRIDE TO STOP HIM.

2. JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 12:30 (QUOTE IT).

* AND ON ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH, WE SHOULD NOT COMPROMISE, BUT ON SECONDARY MATTERS, THOSE WHO ARE NOT AGAINST CHRIST, ARE FOR CHRIST, OBVIOUSLY BY TRUTH, FRUIT AND TRULY COMMUNICATING HIS GOSPEL.

** LET US NOT ALLOW PRIDE AND EGO TO DIVIDE TRUE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, THOSE WHO LOVE HIS TRUTH, AND THAT HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE FORGIVEN OF OUR SIN.

IN APPLICATION OF OUR TEXT TODAY: (1) J.C. RYLE SAID AND I QUOTE: "OF ALL CREATURES, NONE HAS SO LITTLE RIGHT TO BE PROUD AS MAN, AND OF ALL MEN NONE OUGHT TO BE SO HUMBLE AS THE CHRISTIANS." (END QUOTE)

* AND BELOVED, THE POINT IS, THERE IS NOTHING GREAT ABOUT US. EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS A GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:10 AND ROMANS 12:3&4.

** YET WITH THOSE TRUTHS BEFORE US, PRIDE IS THE SIN WE CANNOT SEE IN OURSELVES AT TIMES AND YET SO DETEST IN OTHERS.

*** AND WHY IS IT SO EASY TO SEE PRIDE IN OTHERS AND NOT OURSELVES? THE ANSWER, THE DECEITFULNESS OF THIS SIN, IN ESSENCE THE SOURCE OF ALL SIN, THE I PROBLEM.

**** HENCE PRIDE IS NOT A VIRTUE, IT IS NOT TO BE JUSTIFIED, NOR CAN ITS HEINOUSNESS BE DIMINISHED.

(2) THE CLEAR TRUTH, WHICH IS A SOBERING TRUTH IS FOUND IN PROVERBS 16:5 (QUOTE IT) ALSO QUOTE PROVERBS 21:4 AND PROVERBS 6:16.

* PRIDE IS CLEARLY AN ABOMINABLE SIN, YET ALTHOUGH GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE, JAMES 4:6.

** HUMILITY IS PROPER PERSPECTIVE. IT IS SEEING LIFE, SALVATION, POSSESSIONS, HEALTH, FAMILY AS A GIFT OF GOD'S UNDESERVING GRACE.

*** IT IS SEEING THE LORD AS THE POTTER AND WE ARE THE CLAY, IT IS SEEING THAT JESUS IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH. IT IS SEEING THAT ALL WE ARE OR HOPE TO BE IS IN CHRIST.

**** AND LASTLY IT IS SEEING JESUS IN ALL OF HIS GLORY IN WHO HE IS IN ALL OF LIFE, AND THANKING HIM FOR HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE. HUMILITY IS PROPER PERSPECTIVE. MAY WE GROW IN THAT AS WE GROW IN HIS WORD AND KNOWING HIM. (LET'S PRAY)