

St James News: Thought for the day – Wednesday 4th November 2020

Humility - Rev John Ohen

As we celebrate All Saints, there is greater need for us to show more humility, but how many people can say that “Humility” is one of their Virtues and remember those who have fought the good fight of faith. This human virtue of humility is what I have always struggled with in my life.

What is humility, one may ask? What is peculiar about this virtue, is that the moment you decide to be humble, that is when you discover how proud you really are and can be. The more we become humble the more we realise that we are not humble at all. A famous theologian John Chrysostom once said that the foundation of all Christian teaching is humility. Equally humility can be seen as a recognition that we are all beggars before God. We ask or beg God for all kinds of needs, both earthly and spiritual needs.

Perhaps the key to humility is not to strive to be humble or to force yourself to be humble but to strive to give God honour, glory, and praise, and in due course God will lift us up and humble us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus life and teaching was full of how to be humble.

Another person we can describe as being very humble is St Francis of Assisi. He was so humble that he was referred to as the “second Christ”, Saint Francis of Assisi suffered a great deal from his brothers in Christ, who were very jealous of him because most of the world were going after him, or trying to copy him, even though he was not very rich, clever or handsome. St Francis goes on to say that “the humble person is a realistic person rooted in the ordinary and mundane because he or she wants God to be glorified and given praise as Creator and Lord”.

Jesus was setting a good example for us to follow, but the big question is how many of us are prepared to follow in his footsteps? No other human being could truthfully say to himself, “I am meek and lowly in heart as in Matt.11:29 KJV”. Jesus also put his own teaching into practice by humbling himself unto death, because he died for you and me on the Cross as in Phil. 2.28. In this All Saints season, we should continue to give God alone all the praise and glory.

Bible Quotations:

⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” - (Luke 14: 7 – 11. NIV)

¹²For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. - (Matthew 23.12).

