

## Thy Kingdom Come (Day 5) Monday 25th May 2020

'If my people who are called by my name will **humble Themselves...**' and pray, are our next words to consider for our reflection today as we commit to pray for our 5 names and for helping on the nations.

### **Humbleness or humility**

The Scriptures describes humility as meekness, lowliness, and absence of self. Paul writing to the Christians in Colossi says, 'Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'. (Colossians 3:12)

The Greek word translated "humility" literally means "lowliness of mind," so we see that humility is a heart attitude, not merely an outward demeanour. People can put on an outward show of humility but still be full of stubborn pride and arrogance.

When we realise our need of a saviour, we come before the throne of grace with a broken spirit because we know in our heart of hearts we are sinners, so we come before Jesus in humility. This is a blessing as Jesus said, blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

When we humble ourselves, like the prodigal son in Jesus parable, we are at the mercy of God and what a shocking surprise to be offered such loving grace upon our return when we expected judgment and rejection! This is only possible through Jesus Christ, as He says, 'No one can come to the Father except through me'

We never forget that He has exchanged our worthlessness for His infinite worth, and our sin for His righteousness. The life we now live, we live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. That is true humility.

Humility is the perfect response to subduing our pride and arrogance as we die to self and consider the interests of others above our own. Humility avoids selfish ambition conceit and self justification and self defence - how hard do you find it to apologise to someone when you have got something wrong and maybe hurt someone! True humility produces godliness, contentment, and security. Peter quoting from proverbs reminds us,

'God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble  
(1 Peter 5:5)

The problem with pride is we exalt ourselves, but God in his loving grace will humble the proud to teach us to humble ourselves for then we will be exalted within His will not our own. The wise would say, its better to humble ourselves than to be humbled by God, it seems a hard way to learn a valuable lesson. However when God does humble us, He is also chastising us and we should rejoice because He is not leaving us orphans by has adopted us as His children whom He loves He disciplines.

So we are to humble ourselves and to pray and our first prayer is in humble submission to God, recognising our great need of Him.