

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:4

*For all those that exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

Reading through each of the wonderful Lenten devotionals makes one aware of the significant difficulties many in our congregation have endured and overcome during their lives. While I have experienced difficulties occasionally in life, as we all do, thankfully I have survived through God's great grace!

Luke 14:4 and the similar verse in Luke 18:14 underscore one of the most important attributes of our Savior worth remembering during the season of Lent. That is the humility of Christ.

Candidly, I have struggled often in my life as I put my self-interest above those of my neighbor. I have spent spans of years self-absorbed in work, climbing the corporate ladder, or sometimes the backs of those in the way. Perhaps like some of you, I am a product of a generation raised on the principle that hard work, pride, and dedication will be the self-determinant of success.

I have been blessed that The Lord did not let it end this way for me. He led me down a different path to a place where I could see real leaders. Humble servants in a small rural community put the interests of others ahead of personal gain. Through His Holy Spirit, I can see the humility of a Lord that came to serve, not to be served!

1 Peter 5:5 tells us that Christ was "clothed with humility" from birth until his death. God determined that our Savior would be born of a poor woman, spend the majority of his life in a carpenter's house in a disrespected town called Nazareth. He was followed by poor uneducated companions, fishermen, and tax collectors. He crossed the Sea of Galilee in a borrowed boat, rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey, and was buried in a borrowed tomb.

Excessive pride and ambition can lead to destruction. While these stumbling blocks can rear their ugly head occasionally, I can turn to Saint John and read of Jesus washing his disciples' feet for inspiration. The humility of Christ!

*Prayer:* Lord you have shown me the way. Help me to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you!

~ Submitted by Brian Singleton for the Thirty-ninth Reading of Lent.