

LESSON 7—LEARNING ABOUT: HUMILITY & PRIDE

INTRODUCTION—The scriptures use certain concepts and symbols as *foils* or pairs of things that are opposite from one another; then they play these symbols against each other letting us mentally compare and contrast. These sets of scriptures provide structure for our scriptural knowledge. We saw this when we studied the two opposing cities, Zion and Babylon. God uses these cities to represent opposing systems of thought and action. As we read about the differences, we are invited to make a personal choice of “where to live.” Another symbolic foil in the scriptures is God’s use of the opposing concepts of Low and High. Many scriptural concepts hang upon the action of something being raised or lowered, going up or coming down, looking up or looking down, being high versus being lowly, lifting oneself versus being lifted, etc. In this case the opposites are not two actual things like cities, but two abstract concepts, *high* and *low*. Once you see this theme in scripture, it seems to pop up everywhere. As you understand these concepts they can help you use your agency to make wise personal choices. You can ask, am I trying to raise myself up or am I humbling myself and letting God raise me?

1. Read D&C 5:24 + 28, 2 Nephi 28:13-15, D&C 98:19-21, 3 Nephi 6:10-15. (see Lesson 7 Scripture List)
 - a. From these scriptures give your own definition of “pride.”

 - b. What are some specific things that bring pride according to these scriptures? Cite verses.

 - c. Some of these scriptures indicate what God is going to do to the proud. What will he do?

2. Read Isaiah 2:7-22 and D&C 64:24.
 - a. Isaiah uses poetic imagery of specific things in the world that are “high or lofty” to represent the pride of men. What examples of grand and impressive things does he use?

 - b. At the end of the world, only one thing will be left high or exalted. What is that?

 - c. What is going to happen to all proud things in the day of God’s judgment?

3. Jesus Christ says, “What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.” (3 Nephi 27:27) If we are to be humble, then Christ himself must have set the example of humility.
 - a. Read Luke 22:24-27. (S.L.) In what ways did the Savior come among men as a “servant”?

 - b. Why did the apostles need this? Cite verse.

 - c. How can we emulate the Savior and be among our fellowman “as she that serveth”? Name some *specific* ways.

4. Read John 13:4-15. (S.L.)
 - a. How was this a humbling experience for Christ?

 - b. What lessons did he teach his apostles through this?

5. Read D&C 19:16-24 and Philippians 2:3-11. (S.L.)
 - a. Name some of the ways in which Jesus “humbled himself” while he was living his earthly life? Cite verses.

- b. What are some other ways in which he humbled himself that you know from your general knowledge about his life, atoning sacrifice and death?
- c. In D&C 19:19 Jesus gives “glory,” or credit and honor for his atoning sacrifice to the Father. He takes no honor to himself. How amazing. When God gives us success in something we are doing for him, like teaching a lesson or giving a talk or helping someone, how can we give the glory to God and why is that important?
6. Read Revelation 5:10-13. Jesus never glorified himself. He never bragged or took credit for his achievements. Who does this scripture say will give glory and honor to him?
7. a. Read Luke 22:42. (S.L.) Of what did Jesus empty himself?
- b. Read D&C 93:16-17 and Colossians 1:17-19 (S.L.) With what did the Father fill the emptied vessel of his Son?
8. Read 3 Nephi 27: 13-15. (S.L.) The power to redeem men from the fall comes ultimately from _____.
- b. How was Christ able to draw upon this power to bring about the atonement?
9. Read D&C 93:2-5.
- a. In verse 5 Jesus calls the works he did while on the earth (healing, teaching, casting out devils, miracles, etc.), “the works of [my Father].” How could Jesus’ works be “the works of [his Father]?”
- b. How can the works that we do be the works of God?
- c. What happens to our effectiveness as servants of God when we’re concerned with getting proper recognition and credit?
10. Read D&C 93:15-17
- a. How much of the Father’s power and glory did he give to his son? Cite verses.
11. Match the following words to their definitions:
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|--------------------|---|
| Submit | the very highest |
| Haughty | to go down or come down |
| To Exalt (verb) | lowly |
| Condescend | put yourself <u>under</u> another’s authority |
| Humble (adjective) | high in one’s own estimation |
| Pre-eminent | to lower |
| To Humble (verb) | to raise up |
12. Read 2 Nephi 9:53. (S.L.) What are some ways you can think of that Jesus Christ *condescended* or “came down”?

13. Read D&C 49:8-10 and D&C 29:9 (S.L.)

a. Section 49:8 tells us the real reason that mankind's position is "low" or "fallen." What is it?

b. What has God sent into the world to "lift up" mankind?

c. How can this thing lift us up? (Look again at D&C 5:28, the first scripture, for ideas)

d. God will have all men to bow before Him and the covenants He has provided for our salvation. If men will not bow by humbling themselves, how will God humble them?

e. Name any one of the calamities prophesied to affect the earth's population in the last days. How will this serve to humble people? (If you need ideas, check out the list in D&C 87:6.)

14. James (4:6) tells us "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." Why is being proud, or lifted up, such an impediment to spiritual progress?

15. Read Luke 1:48-53.

a. List any words or phrases from Mary's prayer of praise that refer to "high or low" things.

b. Why is it good to come to God "empty" rather than "full of yourself"? Cite verse.

16. Read 1 Nephi 8:26-28, 1 Nephi 11:36 and 1 Nephi 12:18. (S.L.)

a. What is the great and spacious building? Cite verses.

b. This building is described as standing high above the earth in the air. Nephi sees it fall, and the "fall was exceeding great." What was wrong with the foundation of this building?

17. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 and D&C 76:54-61. The dictionary defines glory (n.) as *very great praise or honor*. When used as a verb followed by the word "in" it means to *rejoice proudly* in something.

a. How do people *glory in* their wisdom, might or riches?

b. Why is this such a bad idea?

c. The verses from section 76 describe those who receive a Celestial glory. According to these verses what things are given to them?

- d. Why should “no man glory in man but rather glory in God”? (76:61)
18. Read D&C 104:79, D&C 112:10, Mosiah 4:10-11, and D&C 29:1-2 (S.L.)
- How does sincere prayer bring humility?
 - Why is it so serious to neglect to put real effort into our prayer life?
19. Read D&C 5: 24 + 28. (revisit 1st scripture on the S.L.) How could verse 28 be a guide to overcoming our weaknesses?
- Can we repent without being humble? Y N Why do they go hand in hand?
20. Read D&C 67:10. We are commanded to “humble ourselves.” That means this is something we are expected *to do to ourselves*. What ideas can you get from this verse that will help you in the process of humbling yourself?
21. Read Psalm 35:13. How does fasting serve to humble us?
22. PERSONAL: Can you share an experience with fasting that brought the power of God into difficult circumstances?
23. Match the following scriptural happenings:
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| Savior went below all things | Judgment/ cast down to Hell |
| Savior was lifted up on the cross | Humble ourself before God |
| Savior will lift up all mankind | Garden of Gethsemane/ atonement |
| Mankind fell | Came as a servant, washed feet |
| Savior's voluntary humility, made himself lowly | Great & Spacious Building-pride of the world |
| We make ourselves lowly | Fall of Great and Spacious building |
| World lifts itself up | Crucifixion of Christ |
| Men lift themselves up | Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden |
| World will be cast down | Pride |
| Sinners will be cast down | Resurrection of mankind |

