

In Christ's kingdom the whole earth will be filled with humble people. Humility is the characteristic that signifies a changed heart in Christ, Matt. 5:3, Lev. 23:27 "humble yourself," 2 Chron. 7:14 "humble...and pray," Ps. 76:8-9 "God rose...to save all the humble of the earth."

**7 Contrasts of those who have received grace and those who will not humble themselves.**

>Jesus has proclaimed the attributes of a kingdom citizen (Matt. 5-7), healed a humble leper (8:1-4), a humble centurion's young servant is healed (8:5-13), Peter's mother-in-law and many others (8:14-17), Jesus calms a storm (8:23-27), and men with demons (8:28-34).

1. **Tax Collectors & Sinners vs. Pharisees:** V9-11, Matthew is sitting in his office, he knows he is a sinner, also Mk. 2, Luke 5:27. Who are the sinners? Those who live outside religious life: murderers, prostitutes, outcasts, and tax collectors. Matthew brought them into his home so they could hear Jesus preach, V10, Mk. 2:15. V11, Jesus was willing to eat with the worst of society to bring them good news. The pharisees think that a prophet like Jesus would desire to eat with the "righteous." Jesus showed righteousness comes from Him.
2. **Sick vs. Healthy:** V12, the Pharisees didn't see their sin, but the sinners did. The Pharisees thought they were good, Jesus replied to them that, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." The self-righteous don't need a physician (But they most certainly do!).
3. **Compassion vs. Sacrifice:** V13, Jesus responds to those who knew the Scriptures from Hosea 6:5-7, that God didn't call for an outward righteousness, but a changed heart and love for God. Amos 5:21-24, the unrighteous cannot bring worship to God, God rejects it. You must be born again to worship God, John 3:3, 4:23. Jesus is exposing apostate Israel condemning them (V13) for hard, cold, merciless hearts (Matt. 23:27).
4. **Sinners vs. Righteous:** V13, Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Jesus is not speaking of the truly righteous, because they are none (Rom. 3:10). Jesus is speaking of their self-righteousness. Ezra 9:6 prayed for himself and the exiles who came back whose sins and guilt had reached the heaven. Ezra confesses the humiliation of their guilt towards God. Humiliation of our sin is necessary to come to Christ.
5. **Days of Joy vs. Days of Sorrow:** V14, why are the Pharisees and disciples of John the Baptist fasting? They mixed the decrease of John with the increase of Christ. Jesus is dining with sinners, proclaiming the kingdom of God, and John is suffering and in prison. V15, while the bridegroom is present there is feasting and celebration, but when Jesus is arrested and crucified His disciples will fast at the time.
  - a. **How I respond to the death of Christ will reveal the state of my soul.** Jesus' disciples mourned and endured suffering because of His death, the Jews were joyful and elated.
6. **Hopeless Religion vs. New Covenant in Christ:** V16-17, new patches tear away from old fabric when it shrinks. New wine breaks old stretched and cracked wine skins as it ferments.
  - a. **What is the point?** The form of Judaism promoted by the Pharisees is useless to bring salvation or foster a humble heart. The form of Judaism at the time is not the Law of Moses, it is a perverted, self-righteous religion that makes men arrogant and cold.
  - b. **The New Covenant:** is a change of the heart and mind, Jer. 31:31-34, Ezek. 37:24-28. This is covenant with a heart filled with the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-17, Eph. 1:13-14).
7. **Matthew the Tax Collector vs. Matthew the Follower of Christ:** V9, Jesus had passed by Matthew several times. Matthew had heard of Jesus and all that He had done. Jesus spoke to Matthew and Matthew left greed for grace and sin for eternal life as Christ had planned.

8. **Those Written in the Lamb's Book of Life vs. Those Not:** Revelation 21:23-27, nothing defiled or those who practice abomination and lying, shall ever come into the Holy City, but **only** those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- a. Those who have been humbled and washed in the blood of the Lamb vs. those who rejected Jesus and continued to walk in their darkness.

### Further Discussion and Application

Read John 3:16-21 gives a warning to those who don't believe in the imperative of the new birth in salvation. What are the marks of an unbeliever? What are the marks of a believer? In John 3:36, Jesus provides another proof of a changed heart. How does belief lead to obedience? How does obedience demonstrate belief? What are the characteristics of a believer and the fruit a believer bears?

1 John 3:1-3 describes the actions of believers when they consider the coming of the Lord. Why does the believer hope and long for the return of Christ? Why would the unbeliever scoff at the coming of Jesus? The idea that evil will continually be practiced by the wicked forever is due to their blindness and deadness in sin. Why will evil stop? Why will justice and righteousness be established? Why is the Gospel precious to those who are lost and see their sinful state?

#### Read 2 Peter 3.

V1-2, What message did God proclaim through the prophets, the Lord Jesus, and the apostles?

V3-4, Why are there mockers?

V5-6, How does creation testify clearing that God's word is sure and will come to pass?

V7, What does God's word say about the current world? Why does it need a renovation or recreating?

V8, Why does the issue (for man) of time not matter to God? Why are His decrees permanent and sure? Is it because man dies but God is eternal? Who outlasts who?

V9, Why is the Lord seemingly slow?

V10, Why will the Lord seem to come quickly? Why will the world be shocked at His coming?

V11, Why should the body of Christ focus on holiness and godliness?

V12-13, Why are we looking for the day of redemption and coming of Christ? What will be made new?

V14, What should believers be growing in until He comes? See also 2 Peter 1: 1-11.

V15, Why are we being given time to prepare? (Because we need it!)

V16-18, What does Paul speak about the coming of the Lord (1 Thess. 4 & 1 Cor. 15)