

# Humility and Hope

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”~**Ephesians 4:2**

If there were one quality in people which could change the world completely, it would be humility. Jesus spoke often about it and practiced it constantly when he walked on earth physically, and continues showing it through people who truly walk with him today.

Yogi Berra, a baseball great, was known for his words as well. He was real, honest, and full of homespun insight. He was lived to be 90 years old, and was the most quoted as well, for one never knew what he was going to say, or how it was going to come out.

“In theory,” Yogi says, “there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.” Sometimes, we must get from the place where we are thinking about how to do things to the place where we actually do it. And we must do it well, or we will be out of a job.

When Jesus spoke about humility, sometimes he just had to put the word servant in to make it clear what he meant. “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”~**Mark 9:35**

A great problem in the world today is that not too many speak like a servant. They are trying to be kings. From sports stars to television personalities and politicians in the public eye, and people we meet every day, they seem to have a need to prove they know more and are more important than anyone else.

We must hear the call of God to see ourselves as we truly are. We are a speck in the universe in a second of time. We are not nearly as smart as we think we are. Only God has the knowledge to make things make sense.

Theodore Roosevelt, one of our great presidents, knew a little about people and how we interact with others, said "If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."

Blaming our troubles on someone else is the very definition of pride, the opposite of humility. If we think higher of ourselves than others, we are surely on the road to perdition.

We must think and rethink humility if there is any hope for our world. Rick Warren, a pastor who has time to think and write, says “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.”

Jesus does not call us to be doormats. He calls us to be doors which lead to understanding and grace. Jesus does not call us to beat people over the head with our knowledge. He calls us to live so that people will want to know the God we know.

Perhaps we should formulate a prayer like St. Frances like “Make me a channel of Your Peace”. Maybe we could learn from the prayer below, of a woman in charge of her nuns, which reveals what she, (and we if we will admit it) all struggle with.

Prayer of an Anonymous Abbess:

*Lord, thou knowest better than myself that I am growing older and will soon be old. Keep me from becoming too talkative, and especially from the unfortunate habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and at every opportunity.*

*Release me from the idea that I must straighten out other peoples' affairs.  
Keep me from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.*

*I will not ask thee for improved memory, only for a little more humility and less self-assurance when my own memory doesn't agree with that of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.*

*Keep me reasonably gentle. I do not have the ambition to become a saint -- it is so hard to live with some of them -- but a harsh old person is one of the devil's masterpieces.*

*Make me sympathetic without being sentimental, helpful but not bossy. Let me discover merits where I had not expected them, and talents in people whom I had not thought to possess any. And, Lord, give me the grace to tell them so. Amen.*

Maybe we need to return to the mind of Yogi Berra as we began today's foray into faith, when it said, “It ain't the heat, it's the humility.” Perhaps we are majoring on the minors, when we should do the reverse.

If we give all our plans to Christ our Lord, Dear Reader, and trust him to do with them what he will, we enter the land of love and miracles. If we can discover true humility, and the God who makes it possible, we can move from theory to practice immediately, and will be filled with hope once again.

