

Luke 10:39 "She had a sister named Mary, which also sat at Jesus feet and heard His word."

NEWSLETTER: "MOMENTS WITH MARY"

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Phone: 609-386-4533 Fax 609-386-3337 215-826-0974 EMAIL: mmako1@msn.com

WEBSITE: www.momentwithmary.org/

"HUMBLER or EXALTED?"

1 Pet.5:6 KJV "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Matt.23:11-12 KJV "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

This is a Season when many turn their thoughts toward **Thanksgiving** and the **Joys of Christmas**.

It is traditional to think about being thankful and giving to others! We seem to be able to share more freely during the Holidays than other times of the year. *As Christians, I wonder why this should be so?* Could it be that we are afraid of being rejected by others, but now, since everyone else is doing it openly we think it is safe for us also?

Do you sometimes say to yourself, "I just don't have time the rest of the year but now it is expected of me, so guess it is my time to fulfill obligation!" *Why do we give or share with others?*

Pride often enters into giving, wanting others to think how great we are! Others give with a sense of love and delight, thinking about the recipients and the joy they will receive! How blessed you are when you give out of a desire to share your blessings and show gratefulness to the LORD!

What are you thankful about? An old hymn reminds us to "Count your many blessings and name them one by one!" Ever make out list of your blessings? You might be simply amazed!

Matt.5:3 LB "Humble men are very fortunate!" He told them, "For the Kingdom of Heaven Is given to them."

It is interesting that **Thayer's Greek Lexicon** describes **humble** as:

A deep sense of understanding how small we are compared to God. A modest opinion of oneself.

To behave oneself without haughtiness. Being willing to stoop to position of a servant.

To submit oneself with a lowly spirit to the power and Will of God.

Are you a proud person who wants to be exalted or one who recognizes how much you need the LORD'S help in life! The Bible tells us to humble ourselves and then God will lift us up! **A thankful person is usually humble!** They realize what they have often received is not because of how great they are, but is a result of the LORD'S blessing! A proud man or woman will grasp at blessings, feeling they deserve it and perhaps much more! I recently read the following on a church sign! "**God will never put His seal of approval on those who seek the applause of men!**" What a true statement!

Thanksgiving is gratitude for blessings and a desire to share. It is not appropriate for Believers to only have this attitude during the Holiday seasons. Each day should be a day of Thanksgiving for us! Sometimes pride, selfishness or self pity gets in our way because we did or did not receive what we thought we deserved. If we refuse to humble ourselves before the LORD, **be very sure** He will devise ways to do it for us!

Some still have so much pride they refuse to recognize the way God loves us and wants to change us!

It is so against our human nature to be humble! It requires God's supernatural power and our willingness to submit our wills to Him.

When some people think of the word "humble" they may identify that with being miserable or degraded. Look back at the descriptions given by Thayer's Lexicon and perhaps a new look at the meanings will encourage us to be more submissive to our LORD!

Mt.18:4 LB "Therefore anyone who humbles himself as this little child, is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Jesus left us His example of His humble spirit as recorded in the Gospels. It is simply amazing when you consider He left of the glories of Heaven to be born in humble circumstances around people of humble means! Now some people think being poor equals being humble because of Jesus' Birth in a lowly manger! The fact is many poor people have very proud and arrogant spirits! Remember! **Jesus humbled Himself while He was still in Heaven** surrounded by all its splendors! Jesus came as a servant, humbly and willingly!

Have you ever considered what the angels could have been thinking on that first Christmas night? Here was the Creator who laid aside His majestic surroundings by choice and came as a vulnerable Baby into this dangerous world! How amazed these angels must have been! Although they may not have fully understood why the Son of God would choose to humble Himself in such a manner, they willingly went to the Shepherds to make the grand announcement! They brought Good Tidings of Christ coming to earth for peace and good will to men with great joy Glory to God in the Highest! It was His pleasure to come that we might be redeemed!

How astonishing all this would be to us if we could only comprehend what He gave up for 33 years for our sakes! How His life on Earth must have captured the attention of those Holy Angels as they watched Him endure being mocked, degraded, and scorned by *those who thought they were so high and mighty!* His obedience until His time was fulfilled and went to the Cross is still a witness today of His humble spirit! Now He is exalted in heaven! One day, He will be exalted everywhere! Every knee shall bow before Him!

How excited the angels must be now when they see Believers following Christ with grateful hearts in His majestic footsteps! How delighted they must be to share this report in Heaven! Do we give Christ and His angels the gift of our humble yet joyful spirit as one of His saints?

Oswald Chambers "A saint is never consciously a saint! A saint is dependant on God."

Blessings to your and yours in this Season of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Christ's Birthday!

If you have questions, comments or prayers requests contact me at the above addresses or visit our Website at: www.momentwithmary.org "Inspirational Ministries- MWM-/FCA 1105 High St. Burlington, NJ 08016

Love and Blessings, Mary Mayko