

Matthew Series

Lesson #099

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



# MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

**Humility**

**Matthew 18:1–4**

**Matt. 18:1, “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’”**

**Matt. 18:2, “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,**

**Matt. 18:3, “and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**

**Matt. 18:4. “ ‘Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ ”**

# 1. Basic terminology: Humility, humble

**ταπεινός** *tapeinoō*

**Literal: “low lying, brought low”**

**Came to mean: “someone of low degree, low estate, weak, insignificant, poor”**

**From that it was used metaphorically:**

**“someone of lowliness of mind, humble”**

**2. Humility is in contrast to pride, arrogance, self-absorption. The basic orientation of the sin nature is “ME,” humility is the direct opposite.**

**3. Humility is a biblical perception of who one is, and orientation to God's authority.**

**Biblical humility is submission to the legitimate authorities in life.**

**4. The New Testament picture of humility is given in Phil. 2:5–11**

**Philippians 2:8, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”**

**Philippians 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,**

**Philippians 2:6, “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,”**

**Philippians 2:7, “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.”**

**Philippians 2:8, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”**

**tapeino,w,  
*tapeinoo*,  
aorist active  
indicative 3P  
“to humble, to see  
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**“to humble, to see  
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**gi,nomai, *ginomai*  
Aorist middle ptcp  
Ptcp of means  
“he humbled himself *by*  
*becoming obedient*”**

**Philippians 2:9, “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,**

**Philippians 2:10, “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,”**

**Philippians 2:11, “and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

**5. Our Lord demonstrated this humility in His desire to serve.**

**Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

**6. Rather than emphasizing His sovereign authority, the second Person of the Trinity de-emphasized His power, prestige, and person and become a creature in order to serve us by dying on the cross for us.**

## **7. Three types of humility:**

**False humility: Col. 2:18–23**

**Genuine, Christian humility: Col. 3:12;  
1 Pet. 5:5; Eph. 4:2**

**Enforced humility**

**8. Humility is foundational to grace orientation. Grace orientation means that we recognize that all that we are and have is from God.**

**2 Cor. 12:6, “For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.**

**2 Cor. 12:7, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”**

**2 Cor. 12:8, “Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.**

**2 Cor. 12:9, “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”**

**2 Cor. 12:10, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”**

**9. Humility is foundational to learning, to growing and to loving others.**

**Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,**

**Eph. 4:2, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,”**

## **10. Humility is foundational to forgiveness and reconciliation.**

**Col. 3:12, “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;**

**Col. 3:13, “bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”**

# **11. Some key Scriptures:**

**1 Pet. 5:5, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*’**

**1 Pet. 5:6, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,**

**1 Pet. 5:7, “by casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”**