

September 1, 2019 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Humility and Pride Today"

"Humility", "humble", "humble", "humbled" and "humbles" ... words in our First Reading, our Alleluia verse and our Gospel.

Humm ... seems like there is a message for us!

The opposite of humility, pride, seems to fit right in there for our consideration.

Let's consider both humility and pride and see where and how they possibly fit into our lives at this point in our time.

Humility is a virtue and we should strive for that.

Pride is known as the chief capital sin or deadly sin ... and clearly something that we should avoid.

In some of the ministries I am in I have portrayed this problem with a catch phrase: IIAAme ... It is all about me!

Society pressures of today have gotten very strong about comparing ourselves with the brightest, the cutest, the richest, the most athletic people, the most popular people out there.

A possible position from that is: I am just no good; nobody loves me or cares for me.

And one of the results is that we have the highest rates of suicide today! Super low self-esteem!

The opposite can also happen.

We can try to do everything in our power to make ourselves the richest, most influential, most noted in FaceBook ... well, because I am the greatest and deserve all the attention I am getting!

Yes, it is being self-centered, egotistical.

Yes, it is simply pride.

Humility, in contrast, is not highly touted in today's culture!

Fortunately, there is some support in today's culture for a healthy self-image, an image where we honestly see our values and do not become highly self-centered and egotistical.

Yes, there are some real problems with IIAAme, with the self-centered vision of the world and life in general.

So, into this dilemma let's consider an alternative view in life: IIAAYL,
It is all about You, Lord.

Woah! That's radically different!

Really?

Didn't God make us?

Didn't Jesus come down from heaven and become human like us
and die on the cross for us? (Phil. 2)

Don't we owe God a great deal of gratitude for life, for the good things
that have happened to us???

Don't we owe God thanks for being able to do so many things ...
like being able to see, hear, feel, taste, and smell?

And what do we do about God?

- Do we ever say thanks?
- Do we ever have a chat about life?
- Oh, isn't that we call prayer?
- How often do we take time away from all of life's cares and
 - o just talk with God ...
 - o maybe praise God,
 - o maybe ask God for help making a difficult decision,
 - o maybe telling God we are so sorry for that terrible thing we did earlier today
 - o maybe reading some Scripture to get God's insights on life
 - o maybe we rely on God's help for life's direction instead of what TV, FaceBook, society today and maybe even what friends are telling us today!

And I am going to add yet another concept to consider in this mix of
life today ... IIAAu ... It is all about you.

That "you" is anyone other than me, myself and I!

So, it could be a family member, a co-worker, a friend, a neighbor ...
even an outright enemy!

You can possibly see this connection with our directions from
God, "Love God and love your neighbor."

Society today has tended to make us more isolated today than we have
ever been in history.

So often we hear sad stories of people being isolated from friends and relatives.

- Maybe we live all alone
- Maybe we are in a hospital or nursing home or senior citizen living arrangements
- AND, nobody calls us, nobody comes to see us
- Nobody cares!
- Nobody gives a hoot!
- We are so isolated
- At this point in our lives, we don't matter any more

I have heard of so many ideas on small and large efforts to help others feel better about themselves.

- Simply saying "Hi" to people we meet ... in a store, in a hallway, ... and simply smiling.
- Saying something more than "Hi"
 - o "Have a nice day!"
 - o "Can I help you with that?"
 - o "Here, let me open that door for you."
 - o "Have a blessed day."
 - o "Blessings on your day!"
- Or, making a much larger effort out of it by:
 - o Writing people a note or sending them a card
 - o Calling on the phone someone who is isolated, ill, lonely etc.
 - o Actually visiting such a person
- Or, if they are younger and a person with a cell phone or a computer
 - o Send them a text message with some message of care
 - o E-mail them to let them know you care
 - o Communicate with them using some other technology

So, we have the big three:

- **IIAme**
- **IIAAYL**
- **IIAAu**

What's the overall perspective on those three?

My best answer - *a balance on all three!*

I am going to ask the ushers to pass out little sheets like these.

They have those three little ideas on them.

My suggestion is that we look at the sheets daily, maybe each morning or maybe each evening.

Perhaps we can tape them on the mirror at home or fold them like this and put them on our dresser or kitchen table.

When we look at the sheets, we can ask ourselves about what we have done in each of the three areas.

- Have we put some effort into each of those three areas today?
 - o Have we done some work to improve ourselves?
 - o Have we taken some time with the Lord to get closer to the Lord and have we received blessings of insights or wisdom in return?
 - o Have we made simple greetings with some unknown people and have we done anything to communicate with someone who is isolated from others?
- Then we can think about how we could do better tomorrow in each of those three areas ... especially with some help from the Lord.

Oh, that's a great case for humility!

That's putting all things into perspective!

That's getting down to earth, to reality.

Like today's Scripture readings recommend for us, that's where we should be in our lives:

- Loving our very selves
- Loving God
- Loving our neighbors ... all of them!

IIAAme

It

Is

All

About

me

IIAAu

It

Is

All

About

you

IIAAYL

It

Is

All

About

You Lord