

**Sermon Title: Humbling Ourselves**

**Sermon Date: 1/31/2021**

**Reverend Darien Waite**

Biblical Passage

*II CHRONICLES 7:14: If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Passage Background and Summary

Solomon, successor to his father King David, built the Grand Temple and assembled a massive congregation for its dedication ceremony. The ceremony included liturgical dancing and singing, thousands of sacrifices and a procession and installation of the Ark of the Covenant into the holy place.

The Holy Spirit filled the sanctuary causing the priest to be overcome with awe as the people of God basked in God's presence. King Solomon moved in the Spirit, ceasing the moment to petition God's blessings upon the congregation and called upon God to dedicate the temple. God responded with humbling words in juxtaposition to the grandeur of the ceremony and pomp and circumstance of the events.

Sermon Summary & Points

The sermon identifies God's response to Solomon's prayer as a call for God's people to engage in the process of *Humbling Ourselves*. Now, there are humbling circumstances that God's people experience which are unavoidable. Additionally, God's people may face situations that only have humbling choices.

But the fulfilment of God's plan in this text is only realized when we humble ourselves. Humility is an attitude of spiritual modesty necessary for the fulfilment of God's plan for our lives. Therefore, *Humbling Ourselves* means:

1. We must be **ACCOUNTABLE**

- God's response not only holds God's people accountable but God held King Solomon personally accountable for following God's plan.
- We demonstrate humility when we are accountable to high standards and the expectations of others.

2. We should be **AWARE**

- Solomon was aware of his hierarchical legacy through his father King David but he had to be made aware of the essential workers that made his monarchy possible.
- Staying aware of the significance of people around helps us avoid arrogance.
- When we engage in the practice of *Humbling Ourselves*, we become aware of our dependency on people around us.

3. We have to be willing to **ADJUST**

- In the surrounding text, God cautions Solomon's leadership would fail if he would "turn" to other gods. Solomon and the congregation were warned to "turn" or *Adjust* from their wicked ways.

- *Humility is demonstrated in our willingness to adjust (or turn) our intentions and behaviors that are un-pleasing to God*
- *God is telling us to find new ways in difficult circumstances to do His will.*

### Discussion:

1. *What was your understanding of humility prior to the sermon? Have your views changed?*
2. *Describe the characteristics of someone in your personal experience you consider a humble person.*
3. *How have you made yourself personally accountable to people around you?*
4. *Solomon was initially “unaware” of the essential workers who supported his Kingdom. What measures have you taken to stay “aware” of the needs and value of those around you?*
5. *How does a Christian “adjust” (or turn) from wicked ways?*
6. *Talk about how it looks and feels to “seek God’s face”.*