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TEXAS

The Texas Capitol Devotional

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4.10

The Indispensable Step to Achieving True Success The Sequel

Whoever exalts himself, the Lord will humble. Do you actually believe that warning from Scripture? I mean, seriously, it seems like those who climb over others to reach the top have little to fear in the form of backlash. You could easily make the argument that self-promotion is a core value of our culture today. It is considered how things are done today...the only way to get ahead. Yet, as a Christian seeking to walk according to the teachings of Jesus, you find yourself shocked by the controversial position He takes on the matter.

Jesus teaching to the disciples amplifies the words of James urging you to humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. *You make yourself small and God will make you big.* Proverbs 3.34 echoes this ideal, “surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.” The teaching of Paul chimes in admonishing you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought (Rom. 12.3) and in lowliness of mind to regard others as more important than yourself (Phil. 2.3). For more on Jesus’ teaching on the matter, consider a story recorded in Mark 10.

The entire chapter provides as robust a treatment on humbling yourself as you will find in any writing in human history. He rebukes his disciples for considering children too small to deserve their attention, sends a rich man away for his unwillingness to set aside that which gives him standing among men, and then foretells His humbling of Himself in His surrendering Himself to torture and execution. Then there is this little matter of who

would be greatest in His kingdom, James or John? Jesus shocks them with His treatment of their debate. Gentile rulers, the great ones of their day, lorded over their subjects.

In Christ's kingdom, whoever would be great, will be servant of all.

WHAT? How exactly does that work?

Chew on that for a while. Then humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and watch Him lift you up.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Garner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Don Garner

State Director, Texas