

How shall I come before Yahweh, and bow myself before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams? With tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my disobedience? The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

*He has shown you, O man, **what is good**. What does **Yahweh require** of you, but to **act justly**, to **love mercy**, and to **walk humbly with your God**? Yahweh's voice calls to the city, and wisdom sees your name: "**Listen to the rod, and he who appointed it.**" (Micah 6:6-9)*

*If my people, who are called by my name, shall **humble themselves**, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* (2 Chronicles 7:14)

What does it **mean to be humble**? How is **humility perceived** in this world?
Is humility sought after, admired, **pursued**, craved, **rewarded**?

Background check

Evil – the desire to find satisfaction or **gratification** through **seeing others ‘justly’ suffer**.

Humility – a **willingness to be vulnerable** and **relinquish rights** to self-defense or ‘justice.’

The Tree of the Knowledge of **Good and Evil** represents the **world’s** design for **social order**. This tree is the system of using **rewards and threats of punishments** to **motivate compliance** to artificial laws and regulation. It operates **outside** the purview of **unconditional love**.

It is this system that **spawns desire** to **see people punished** when they incur **guilt** by **breaking rules** or **violating the rights** of others.

This system is represented as **balance scales** that define so-called **justice**, where **order**, peace and unity are attempted through **offsetting debits and credits** to achieve a zero sum **balance**. Thus **good deeds create a social debt** that must be **compensated with good rewards**; evil deeds and **offenses** must be met with **punishments** involving **imposed loss**, pain, **suffering**, **humiliation** and even **death**.

In this system, **rights** are **defined** as the ability to **enforce this kind of justice**, to **defend** ourselves **under the law** against exploitation by others or from **false accusations**, and to seek to have **punishments imposed** against all those **who offend us**.

From this flesh perspective, passages about God’s vengeance are only viewed as super law enforcement, with the government backed up by the authority of God to execute our justice.

Vengeance is mine, and recompense, at the time when their foot slides; for the day of their calamity is at hand. The things that are to come on them shall make haste. For Yahweh will judge his people, and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone, There is none remaining, shut up or left at large. (Deuteronomy 32:35-36)

Yahweh, you God to whom vengeance belongs, you God to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth. (Psalms 94:1)

*The **Spirit of the Lord Yahweh is on me**; because Yahweh has **anointed me** to preach good news to the humble; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to **proclaim** the year of Yahweh's favor, and **the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all who mourn; to appoint to those who mourn in Zion, to give to them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Yahweh, that he may be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3)*

True humility involves leaving accountability of others with God and not taking things into our own hands to judge them, even rulers of this world who may or may not be in sync with heaven's agenda.

*Let every soul be in **subjection to the higher authorities**, for there is **no authority except from God**, and those who exist are ordained by God. Therefore **he who resists the authority**, withstands the ordinance of God; and **those who withstand will receive to themselves judgment**. For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. Do you **desire to have no fear** of the authority? Do that which is good, and you will have praise from the same, for he is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he doesn't bear the sword in vain; for he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to him who does evil. Therefore **you need to be in subjection**, not only because of the wrath, but also **for conscience' sake**. (Romans 13:1-5)*

Conscience literally means co-perception. We are to live always in harmony with input from the Holy Spirit connected through our trained, healed conscience. This passage is not suggesting that every earthly authority is right or that we should believe what they are doing harmonizes with God. Rather each one of us is responsible for how we relate to others and for the disposition that motivates us. The Lamb is our supreme example of how to properly relate to authorities, even those who are overtly corrupt and in rebellion against God's principles for life. Humility is about trusting God in every situation rather than trying to force accountability on how others handle authority.

***Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath**. For it is written, "**Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay**, says the Lord." Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, **feed him**. If he is thirsty, **give him a drink**; for in doing so, you will **heap coals of fire on his head**." Don't be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**. (Romans 12:19-21)*

*How much **worse punishment**, do you think, will he be **judged worthy** of, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has **insulted the Spirit of grace**? For we know him who said, "**Vengeance belongs to me**," says the Lord, "**I will repay**." Again, "**The Lord will judge his people**." It is a **fearful thing** to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:29-31)*

When people in **this world's mindset** read a statement such as Vengeance is mine, I will repay, they **assume** that it means they are to **defer the work of inflicting severe punishment** to the **Almighty** who promises to do a **more thorough job to impose severe punishments** than humans can possibly inflict. Thus the **desire to inflict harm** on others **for harm experienced** from them does **not encourage forgiveness** but is rather **waiting for divine judgment** when God will **execute vengeance** and **punishments** beyond our own capacity to impose. We want God to **be our law enforcer**.

This **version of justice** and **judgment reinforces** rather than challenges the **status quo** modus operandi of the **kingdoms of this world**. It is all about satisfying the **craving to see others pay** for any and all perceived evil they have committed, while also insisting that those who have done good and kept the rules **be rewarded commensurate** to their compliance to social expectations. Within this system there is **little respect** or desire for **humility**, for it is generally **viewed as weakness**, something **least desirable** in a world where **power to be in control** over others is highly **coveted**.

Satan's system operates on the **principle of exploitation**, despite all **attempts to mask** this in the **name of justice**. Those who **choose vulnerability** rather than seeking for power to control are viewed as **sitting targets** waiting to be taken advantage of by exploiters. At best we expect our system of laws and rigid enforcement to protect the vulnerable and weak, but we don't see any benefit in choosing to become weak and vulnerable in a world where the very opposite is defined as success and victory.

*Yes, truth is lacking; and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Yahweh saw it, and it displeased him that **there was no justice**. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was **no intercessor**: therefore his own arm brought salvation to him; and **his righteousness, it upheld him**. (Isaiah 59:15-16)*

Humility is **exemplified** most clearly in the expression, **Not my will** but yours be done. Humility **parallels agape love** in that it does **not demand a return** in exchange for something given. Humility **opens the door** to receiving **life from its Source** through giving life without expectations. Humility seeks the **good of others more** than for one's self. Humility can only be sustained when one's sense of **identity** and worth is firmly **secure in God**.

To humble ourselves requires being willing to **lay aside our own opinions as superior** to what God says.

To be humble involves **deferring to God's will** over our will – Your will be done, not mine.

What is the **will of God**? Give **thanks in everything**, for this is the will of God.

It is God's will that **no one be lost** but that everyone would come to repentance.

Your will be done on earth **as it is in heaven**. This is all about **willingly giving God authority**.

To give God authority means to choose to **prefer God's will above** our cravings and feelings.