



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

October 21-27, 2019

## Reveille Day

Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester

Sermon Title: *Four Virtues of a Joyous Life: "Humility"*

Notes from sermon on 10/20:

Prayer requests:

### Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

How does our culture reward exalting ourselves? How can we learn to be humble?

### 3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

In Second Timothy, Paul declares, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (4:7). What does that look like in your life?

How does your church keep the faith, even in the face of all the world's challenges?

How can you make a difference in your church today?

### Monday, October 21: Read Luke 18:9-14

We come to the last week of our sermon series focused on the "virtues of a joyous life," and in preparation for Reveille Day and the end of our annual stewardship campaign, we turn to a virtue we may not often think of as associated with joy: *humility*. In a culture that idolizes strength, power, celebrity, and material wealth, it can be tempting to believe these are the keys to happiness. Humble people seem in the shadows, taken advantage of, and wanting. After all, didn't Christ tell us not to hide our light under a basket?

At first, many of us might laugh at the arrogance of the Pharisee in Christ's parable today. If we take a minute to examine our hearts, however, we will unfortunately see ourselves in him. Can we, like the tax collector, focus on the true wonder of God's mercy instead of our own deeds and worldly identity, which so pale in comparison? How much more joy would we experience if we saw every day as a gift of grace rather than another chance to prove ourselves?

**Tuesday, October 22: Read Joel 2:23-32**

The book of Joel was written after a devastating locust infestation that threatened the life and livelihood of a people very aware of their dependence on the earth, the forces of nature, and God's mercy. We have lost much of that awareness today, and the effects are showing. Today's beautiful poetry exalts God's power, providence, and mercy. It uses incredibly inclusive language for the time, including "sons and daughters...male and female slaves" as recipients of God's spirit. Is this how we are approaching our earth and our neighbors today? Are we showing humility by approaching the earth's resources as God's gift to be shared with all? What would the world look like if we did?

**Wednesday, October 23: Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

At first reading, today's scripture may seem the farthest thing from an example of humility. The "I have, I have, I have" verbiage could cause eyes to roll if we used it ourselves, and perhaps can serve as a reminder to watch how we talk. But upon further reading, we may notice the true source of the writer's pride and joy: God's mercy in his life. Being humble doesn't mean never speaking up or allowing God's work in our lives to be used as an example for others. It isn't pretending that we aren't happy and fulfilled so others don't get jealous. When we allow ourselves to be full recipients of God's amazing power and mercy, and not the things of this world, we can marvel at how God can exalt us and lead us to do that which is right. Is there any place in our life where we can "brag" about God's work in us and through us? What would this look like, so it could raise others up and bring them closer to God, rather than bring attention to ourselves?

**Thursday, October 24: Read Psalm 65:1-5**

Just as arrogance, greed, and discontent usually go hand in hand, so do joy, humility, and contentment. Today's reading beautifully demonstrates this. Notice the sources of happiness, joy, and satisfaction, according to the writer. Let us take the time today to confess our transgressions rather than broadcasting our accomplishments, and see what joy and relief and gratitude it brings. Let us find happiness and satisfaction in the gifts God has already provided us, rather than striving to acquire more and more. Let us rest in the hope that God is taking care of us, rather than toiling in a futile effort to control everything and everyone. How does it feel?

**Friday, October 24: Read Psalm 65:6-13**

While few of us have the poetic talent of today's psalmist, we are all witnesses to unique aspects of God's power, love, and mercy. Could we, like the psalmist, use our words and deeds to highlight them to the world? Could we live a life of joyful response to God's wondrous work in our lives, our church, and our world? As we read today's psalm and praise God, singing, "You crown the year with your bounty" (verse 11), will we reflect that by returning a portion of our bounty to be used by God's church to do God's transformative and healing work? Are we ready to use our resources of time, money, words, and actions to draw others closer to God's grace, rather than exalt ourselves? In the end, which will bring more joy?

**Saturday, October 26: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Luke 18:14b**

"For all who exalt themselves will be humbled,  
but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

**Sunday, October 27: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of**

**Common Confession:** *No words can express the depth of our need or reveal the extent of our sin. But you know us completely, O God. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. You rescue us from evil and clothe us with love. Humbly, we thank you; for no words can express our gratitude for the gift of your salvation. Amen.*