

# Being humble...

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.*

- Proverbs 11:2

What comes to mind when you read about being humble in the Bible? Being humble means having an absence of arrogance, pride, aggressiveness and boastfulness.

Pride is something we must learn to harness and that is hard. We need to understand we are imperfect people who should be constantly trying to become better. We all need to grow in learning (knowledge) and how to apply it (wisdom).

Humility means keeping a teachable spirit, realizing that we don't know it all and having a deep hunger to learn. It is a willingness to receive instruction and correction from God and from trusted servants of God. Those who reject sound teaching show arrogance and belief in their own intellect.

Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise."

Proverbs 9:9 says, "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

What gets in the way of instruction and learning is arrogance and pride.

To be teachable is to be a dis-

**"I will meditate on Your precepts and contemplate Your ways."**

- PSALM 119:15



**SYLVIA HUGHES**  
Meditating on his Word

ciple. In Jesus' day, a disciple gave up everything for their Rabbi. They followed him everywhere he went. They wanted to be like their Rabbi.

They were eager to learn his way of seeing and doing things. They learned not only from what he taught but from observing his actions.

Many times Jesus took His disciples aside to teach them but He also gave them lessons through His actions. The woman at the well was a lesson on prejudice.

The woman caught in adultery was a lesson on forgiveness. Look not only at His words in the gospels, but observe His actions. He was never too busy to stop and help anyone who needed Him.

By observing what He did, we learn not only to take time to help others but we learn about love, compassion and forgiveness not only to select people but to all people

They didn't learn all at once.

From reading the gospels, we know they were often slow to understand and sometimes they failed. Jesus corrected them when they made mistakes but He loved them and kept working with them. They continued to follow Him and learn.

Are our ears and hearts open to hear what others have to say or do we rarely consider what others say? We should always listen and then check the scriptures to see if what they are saying is true and has value.

Acts 17:11 tells us, "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

Look at the instructions and the promises in Proverbs 3:5-8:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones."

*Sylvia Hughes is a longtime Sunday School and women's Bible study teacher, and a retired newspaper editor. She can be reached via email at [blameditions@gmail.com](mailto:blameditions@gmail.com).*

# Staring or sharing...

His followers were pointing into the sky. "He's on the cloud," one said. "No, I saw Him over here!" "Oh, wait, I see him again." Each of them squinting through fingers. The nagging feeling that it is all over rushes over them. "We will never see Him again," Matthias sadly confesses. Their necks sore from trying to see Him one last time snap back to level when they hear the voices of two men.

From every way we can understand, these men dressed in white were angels with another message about the Messiah. "The way He left is the way He will return."

Can you imagine hearing those words from the mouths of angels? Jesus had told them that He would return, but now that's all they had to wait to see. Actually, Jesus told them to wait for something else.

Jesus had told them before leaving into the clouds that He was sending His empowering Spirit so that they would be given the boldness to tell everyone about the good news of the Savior.

Jesus was clear that he expected that they would continue to tell everyone that His Kingdom was coming. He wanted them to begin in Jerusalem and then move to the surrounding areas, even to the abhorrent Samaritans and ultimately every gentile nation and tongue.

**"This is the day the Lord has made."**

- PSALM 118:24



**THE REV. EMMANUEL WEBB HOGGARD**  
Grace & Truth

But, before they could tell, they must wait. The Holy Spirit was coming.

Those angels started by asking, "Why do you stand staring into the sky?" What a question? It feels like a stupid one, right? I mean, Jesus just went there. You would think that is where our eyes should be.

However, Jesus had been clear that if we were going to be His followers or friends, we must do what He said to do. What had He said to do? Go back to Jerusalem to wait for the power to tell the world about Him.

Sadly, many believers today are still looking at the sky, keeping their eyes heavenward when we've been instructed to serve this world. - to pray and bring His Kingdom here.

We are the hands and feet of a real kingdom no one sees until they see us.

Jesus said when He returned, "Will I see faith on the earth?"

What does true faith in Christ

look like? We must do what He said to do. When Jesus comes back, will He find you staring or sharing?

The Holy Spirit is here, and He's here for all who desire Him. Are you fulfilling the purpose of Jesus' mission? His mission was to atone for us, and He was clear that our mission was to tell of Him everywhere we go, making disciples and immersing them in the understanding of the reality of God.

Will He find you staring or sharing? Who have you told today? You received the blessing of the Holy Spirit to bless others. We give whatever God gives us. If you hoard this gift, you will not keep it.

The express purpose of the Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father, and the priority of Jesus is to grant you the boldness to tell everyone what you have seen. Tell me what has happened to you!

What's your story? What testimony do you have? What have you witnessed that may change someone else's life? Pray for boldness to share the good news. We are not to be a people that stare at clouds; instead, we bring His Kingdom here.

*Pastor Emanuel Webb Hoggard is Pastor at Askewville Assembly of God. He can be reached via email at [pastorwebb@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorwebb@hotmail.com).*

# Special Events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 5 p.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to [twhite@ncweeklies.com](mailto:twhite@ncweeklies.com).

**May 22**

*No Sale Yard Sale*

**WINDSOR** - Five churches will combine to hold a "no sale yard sale" from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, May 22.

The event will be held at 1001 South King St. in Windsor. No early birds.

**May 26**

*Free Food Drive*

**WINDSOR** - A Free Food Drive is planned for 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 26 at Pleasant Oak Missionary Baptist Church.

The church is located at 530 U.S. 13/17 South in Windsor.

**June 5**

*The Well*

**AULANDER** - Need hope, encouragement or a friend?

The Well began May 1 and will be held at 7 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

The service will be a unique band-led worship for anyone who wants to attend.

Those who play an instrument are encouraged to use their talents.

The service will be held at The Place of Possibilities at 1144 Hexlena Rd.

*Giveaway*

**WINDSOR** - There will be a free giveaway from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, June 5 at The Potter's House Baptist Church on U.S. 13 near White Oak Road.

The giveaway includes clothing, shoes, dishes and other items.

Also, there will be free cokes and sandwiches, as well as time to fellowship.

The church is accepting clothes, shoes, dishes, toys, bicycles, chairs and other items to give away at this time.

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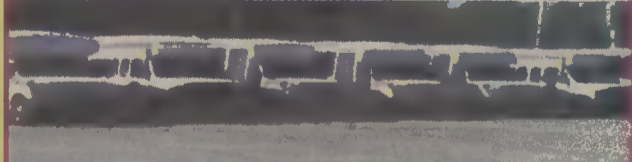


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## SPORTS

# TRIVIA

Name one of the wrestling world champions.  
Did the Carolina Hurricanes make the NHL playoffs?