

MINNESOTA SUPPLEMENT

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Bruce V. Brendal
Grand Commander



EASTER - 2008

humility (hyoo.mi.li.tee)

noun. 1. humbleness; meekness. 2. a humble condition.
from Latin *humilitas* (as humble) from *humilis* lowly.
Definition from the Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus
American edition, 1996.

I would venture a guess that when most of us hear or use the word ‘humility’ it refers to definition number 1, above. In addition to meekness, other descriptions could include submissiveness, servility and self-effacement. Probably a picture comes to mind of someone standing with hat in hand, looking bashful.

Should the second definition come to mind, does it conjure up in you a picture of spartan existence, of little means? Perhaps one of lowliness and simplicity?

When changing the reference tool to that of a Bible Dictionary, we get a more detailed look at the concept of humility. From the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* (1996). “humility, in the biblical world a value that directs persons to stay within their inherited social status, specifically by not presuming on others and avoiding even the appearance of lording over another. Humble persons do not threaten or challenge another’s rights, nor do they claim more for themselves than has been duly allotted them in life.”

The life of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, provides an example of humility which cannot be slotted into a narrow definition.. he was much more complex than that. Of his birth, from all accounts we may state he came into the world in a most humble condition. When he died he was also in such a state. But, rather than taking his leave in simple meekness, he chose to humiliate himself, and “avoid the appearance of lording over another.”

Rather than challenging those deemed Authorities, he acted as if he were powerless to save himself. Being One with God he could have done so, humiliating and shaming those who tried and persecuted him. This he did not want to do, thereby leaving them with honor. Jesus put others first — in sparing shame and dishonor for those who did not recognize him as Messiah — and also for us the believers in him by making the ultimate sacrifice, ensuring we would have eternal Life.

Tim Keller says in the December 2008 issue of *Christianity Today* that “We are on slippery ground because humility cannot be attained directly.” He also warns of the “poison of pride,” and the dangers associated with it. To paraphrase: if you *think* you are being humble, you are in reality pride-filled. In true Christian humility we must forget ourselves; we have been saved by the grace of God through Christ, and must serve humankind in His name.

We can never thank Jesus enough for his gift to us. But we can, and must try to emulate his example. The Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians (4:1-3) that we should strive for Unity in the Body of Christ [I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Paul also writes in Colossians 3:12: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.”

English writer and Christian apologist C. S. Lewis may have said it best: “Christian humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” Did not Jesus himself provide us with the most perfect example? Without that perfect example, we would be lost in darkness. Because of that perfect example of humility, Good triumphed over Evil and Christ rose from the dead as proof. Hallelujah!

Sir Knights and Ladies, my prayer is that every day you practice the virtues of Christian humility, and that every day be a celebration of that Resurrection day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in his humility died for us that we might have Eternal Life!

For Grand Commander Bruce V. Brendal and the rest of the Grand Officers, may you have a blessed Easter!

Mark A. Anderson, KTCH, KCT
Grand Prelate, 2008-2009
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Zion No. 2 Presents “Gospel According to Saint Mark”

Zion Commandery No. 2 invites the Sir Knights, Ladies, and other interest persons to join them for dinner and play celebrating our Lord’s Ascension into Heaven. The tickets for the dinner and play will be \$40.00 for premium seating and \$30.00 for general admission. We will celebrate Ascension Day at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Center, 2011 DuPont Ave. S. Minneapolis, on Sunday May 17, 2009. The play will be “The Gospel According To Saint Mark” starring Tom Stolz from the Old Log Theater. There will be a half hour social gathering starting at 4:00 PM, followed with dinner at 4:30 PM and the play starting at 6:00 P.M. sharp. Dinner will be Surf & Turf (shrimp and beef) with coffee and sweets after the play. Attire for the evening will be business casual. Please confirm with a check to Zion Commandery by March 28, 2009 to: Richard Kachman, 12555 Pennock Ave., #109, Apple Valley MN 55124-609 or Michael Powles 6555 Riverwood Ln., Brooklyn Center MN 55430-1645, 763-208-0998.

CURRENT EVENTS

APRIL

- 2-4 Grand York Rite of Nebraska, Columbus NE
- 10 GOOD FRIDAY
- 12 EASTER - Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service,
- 28 Damascus Comm. No. 1, Order of the Temple

EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR