

Partners In Courage, February 2013

JUST ADMIT IT!

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: You don't have to be righteous to practice this sermon. But if you do practice it, you will receive righteousness.

You don't have to be virtuous to practice this sermon. But if you do practice it you will receive virtues of every kind and become virtuous.

You don't have to be WISE or DISCERNING to practice this sermon. But if you do practice it, you will receive wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discernment.

You don't have to be STRONG or POWERFUL to practice this sermon. But if you do practice it, you will receive strength and power from God.

And applying this sermon is REALLY REALLY EASY! It is perhaps the most DOABLE sermon you'll ever hear. The wicked can do this sermon. The foolish can do this sermon. The weak can do this sermon.

1. GOD SAYS TO US, "JUST ADMIT IT!"

Jer. 3:12-13 Go, proclaim this message toward the north: "'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD, 'I will not be angry forever. ***Only acknowledge your guilt***— you have rebelled against the LORD your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,'" declares the LORD.

Jer. 3:14-15 "Return, faithless people," declares the LORD, "for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

**** God wasn't expecting these wicked, weak and foolish people to bring a lot to the table, so to speak. All they were to bring was an admission of their great need of God's righteousness, forgiveness, wisdom and strength. If they would do that He promised to bring them into an intimate ONENESS with Himself. As a husband and wife are "one flesh" God wants to be ONE SPIRIT with His people. He can supply all that is needed for this wonderful relationship if we will supply just one thing—a heartfelt admission of our NEED for Him and all that He is.

Here's a New Testament example of the same thing. 1John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ***If we confess our sins***, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Just admit it.

2. ADMITTING OUR NEED FOR GOD IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF HUMILITY.

**** We tend to think that humility is the pinnacle of virtues. If someone says, "I'm humble" everyone would laugh, thinking, "Oh no you're not. You have to be really really spiritual to be humble." But you don't have to be spiritual to be humble. Even the most wicked people can humble themselves—because admitting our need for God is the very essence of humility.

EXAMPLES: King Ahab was a wicked man. He promoted the vilest kind of idol worship—the worship of Baal, which was basically devil worship. He had an innocent man murdered just so that he could take that man's land and make it a private vegetable garden.

1Kings 21:18-29 "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. Say to him, 'This is what the LORD

says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

Ahab said to Elijah, “So you have found me, my enemy!”

“I have found you,” he answered, “because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD. ‘I am going to bring disaster on you. I will consume your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked me to anger and have caused Israel to sin.’ “And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ “Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country.”

(There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.)

When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: **“Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”**

**** Ahab was so evil that God promised to wipe out his whole household. Yet even he was able to humble himself and admit that he had done wrong and God responded.

**** One of the most wicked kings of the nation of Judah was Hezekiah’s son, Manasseh. 2Kings 21:16 Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

2Chr. 33:10-13 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. ***In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.*** And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

Do you get the picture? The most wicked king of Israel and the most wicked King of Judah were able to humble themselves so that God had mercy on them. They each IMMEDIATELY got God’s attention.

To “humble yourself greatly” like Manasseh you would need to ADMIT—I have no righteousness, wisdom, or strength on my own. I need you, Lord. I need Your forgiveness, I need your wisdom. I need your discernment. I need your power. I need YOU more than air, more than water, more than food, more than sleep, more than riches, more than anything!”

***** ***Humility is NOT a virtue! Rather, it is the key to all virtues.*** A key to a treasure chest filled with jewels would NOT be a jewel itself. An old iron key would not be a ruby, emerald, diamond or opal. But it COULD open the treasure chest. This is why Moses could write about himself, **“Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth”** (Numbers 12:3). He simply meant, (my paraphrase) “Now Moses admitted that he had no righteousness of his own, no wisdom of his own, no strength of his own and that he needed God in all those areas. He was more aware of his shortcomings than anyone else on earth—and he asked for God’s help more than anyone else on earth.” This means you and I could be as humble as Moses!

**** Further proof that humility, itself, is NOT a virtue. The Bible says, “The Lord gives grace to the humble” (Proverbs 3:4). This means humility is NOT a grace given by God. You don’t

need God's grace to be humble. You just need to ADMIT what a mess you are and what a mess you are in. God gives grace to people who just ADMIT IT! **** This is NOT self-condemnation. The difference is that self-condemnation doesn't admit need and ask for help. Self-condemning people have their eyes on themselves, not on the Lord. They only run themselves down.

3. EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS THE OUTGROWTH OF HUMILITY.

If a person admits that he or she needs God's forgiveness, fellowship, wisdom, righteousness and power—it stands to reason the next thing they should do is to ASK for God's forgiveness, righteousness, wisdom and strength.

**** ADMIT what you need (that's humbling yourself) and ASK God to give to you what you need (that's prayer). Of course, you will NEVER PRAY unless you are acutely aware of your NEED. And notice again, you do not have to be spiritual to ADMIT that you need God's righteousness and to ASK for Him to impart His righteousness to your account!

2Chr. 7:11-14 When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, **if my people, who are called by my name, will 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.**"

**** So the people were NOT spiritual but were able to humble themselves. Why? Because they would be able to JUST ADMIT they had sinned and admit that they needed God's forgiveness and righteousness. Then they would still HAVE TO ASK for forgiveness and healing.

4. PRAYER WITHOUT HUMILITY IS A WASTE OF TIME.

**** Jesus told a story about two men who went to pray. One was not admitting his need for God's righteousness. Instead, he was trying to persuade God that he DID NOT need forgiveness or righteousness but rather that he deserved and had earned an outpouring of blessing.

Luke 18:9-12 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

**** So the Pharisee wasn't ADMITTING his need. His prayer was not growing out of humility—so it was unanswered.

Luke 18:13-14 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The man who got a prayer answered was ADMITTING his need and ASKING for forgiveness. So we should take a tip from Jesus, and remember that when we pray we should first ADMIT that we are very needy people. Then we should ask God for what we need—whether it is righteousness, wisdom or strength.

5. PRIDEFUL PEOPLE JUST WON'T ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE A NEED.

Prov. 30:20 "This is the way of an adulteress: She eats and wipes her mouth and says, 'I've done nothing wrong.' (She won't admit she needs forgiveness and righteousness.)

Prov. 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (He won't admit he is foolish and needs God's wisdom).

Jer. 8:6 I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. No one repents of his wickedness, saying, “What have I done?” Each pursues his own course like a horse charging into battle.

**** You see, they don’t say what is right. They don’t admit they need God’s guidance. God is listening attentively to see what YOU will say.

**** In the book of Job, after God’s appearance and severe rebuke to Job he just admits that he doesn’t really know ANYTHING!

Job 42:1-6 Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. [You asked,] ‘Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. [“You said,] ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 42:7-9 After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, **“I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.** So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer.

Job 42:10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.

**** Job’s friends were proud of their assumed righteousness and profound knowledge of God. They didn’t ADMIT that they, too, needed forgiveness and wisdom.

Who got the answered prayer? The man who HUMBLED himself by admitting his lack of wisdom and his need of God. His prayer flowed out of true humility and was answered.

**** The people of ancient Judah would NOT ADMIT that they needed God’s protection. They would NOT ADMIT their sin.

Isa. 30:15-18 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. You said, ‘No, we will flee on horses.’ Therefore you will flee! You said, ‘We will ride off on swift horses.’ Therefore your pursuers will be swift! A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill.” Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

If they had JUST AMITTED their sin (repentance) they would have been able to PRAY for protection. Rather than admit their guilt and get God’s protection they WOULD NOT admit their guilt and WOULD NOT ask for God’s help. The result was a total wipe out of the nation with less than 1% of the people surviving and all of those went into captivity for many years.

1Pet. 5:5 **Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**

Prov. 3:34 **He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.**

**** We see that God is attentively LISTENING to see if we’ll admit our need of His guidance, wisdom, provision and protection. He LONGS TO BE GRACIOUS to us, that is, HE LONGS TO POUR OUT GRACE for all the things that we need spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. If we will JUST ADMIT how much we need Him then He will arise from His throne and show us compassion. (Compassion is “love using its power.”) God longs to display His power on our behalf.

**** Annie Schisler had a vision of God’s HOUSE OF GRACE where everything they could ever need would be provided. The house was GOD HIMSELF. Yet the doors and windows were closed.

Bigheaded people were trying to get in and could not. But from the inside she saw that the floor was moving. It was like liquid. The people who humbled themselves and admitted their great need of God were flowing in like melted wax! They were entering God's presence via the floor! The bigheaded ones never got in.

6. HERE ARE SOME OTHER THINGS THAT THE HUMBLE ADMIT.

1. Humble people ADMIT that they do not need to avenge themselves. They ADMIT that God will take care of that. Proud people feel that they MUST avenge themselves and thus they multiply their sin, responding in even more evil ways to the people who mistreated them.

Is. 50:4-9 The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

**** The Bible says about Jesus, **“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! (Phil. 2:8)**

**** Jesus didn't need to ADMIT that he was sinful, foolish or weak. He was righteous, wise, and strong. So his expression of humility was to ADMIT that he did not have to avenge himself.

Rom. 12:19 **Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.**

1Pet. 3:9 **Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.**

2. Humble people admit that others are better than themselves in their areas of gifting and knowledge.

Phil. 2:3 **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.**

**** It is an expression of humility to JUST ADMIT that other people are better than you in some area. Admitting that they may see something from their viewpoint that you don't see is an expression of humility.

**** God gives us the “humility test” sometimes by speaking to us through people we consider inferior to ourselves. King Josiah was leading a national revival and God spoke to him through Pharaoh, King of Egypt who worshipped idols. King Josiah was too proud to recognize the voice of God coming from that source—and as a result, he was soon killed in battle, dying when he was just 40 years old! After God showed me that I came to realize that God had been speaking to me through my mother who always said, “Pick it up as you go.” By ignoring that I grew up disorganized and messy. Now that I've humbled myself by ADMITTING God was speaking through my mother I've made one advancement after another in the area of order and organization.

3. Humble people admit that others are just as worthy of help as themselves.

That's what Isaiah 58 is all about. God wants us to ADMIT that some orphaned child in Africa is as WORTHY of having food as we are. God wants us to ADMIT that some mother in India who has painful teeth is as WORTHY of dental care as we are. We ADMIT that others have value, equal to ours when we SHARE OUR FOOD WITH THE HUNGRY. *Keep that in mind as you read these verses:*

Is. 58:5-11 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call

a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

The woman who humbles herself by admitting that some woman in Africa is as valuable to God as she is and shares some of her provisions with women who live in poverty will find it much easier to get answers to prayer. Humble yourself—then pray. It’s a humbling thing to provide the poor wanderer with shelter. To do that you have to admit that the wanderer has value equal to your own. Proudful people have an air of superiority. They don’t want to admit that others are as valuable as they are.

Always act like others have great value. Act like the pain they feel is being felt directly by God as if it was His very own pain! The grace that comes to people who humble themselves will always be worth far more than whatever they share with others.

7. ADMIT YOUR NEED AND ASK FOR GOD’S HELP AND GRACE.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

First, you have to ADMIT THAT YOU LACK WISDOM. Once that is admitted, just ask God for wisdom and He will give it to you generously.

Prov. 3:4-7 KJV Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes:

***** What does it mean to “acknowledge God in all your ways”? It means—acknowledge (ADMIT) that you need His love, His wisdom, His direction, His discernment, His counsel, His thoughts, His ways of responding to provocation, His reminders, His teaching, etc. In every “way” or area of life, acknowledge (ADMIT) your need for God’s grace and help. Then He will direct your paths.

He is not going to be giving direction to people who will not admit that they need His direction!

HERE ARE SOME COMFESSIONS OF HUMILITY. (ADMISSIONS)
Psa. 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

JESUS, himself, ADMITTED his total dependency upon the Father. John 5:30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Rom. 7:18 KJV For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

2Cor. 12:3-6 And I know that this man— whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except

about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.

2Cor. 12:7-10 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**** Paul actually LIKED to ADMIT his constant need for God. He admitted how weak he was and admitted how much he needed God’s strength. Then he asked for that strength—and got it, of course.

When he was insulted or in hardship he QUICKLY ADMITTED that his temper was being aroused or that self-pity was forming in him. Then he asked for patience, gentleness and God’s viewpoint. His fruitful life and ministry were and are proof that God answered those prayers.

**** Jesus taught us in the Lord’s Prayer to ADMIT our need for God and ASK for His help. Matt. 6:13 **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’**

When we say, “lead us not into temptation” we are ADMITTING that if we got around certain temptations we just might succumb to them. Once we ADMIT our moral weakness we can ASK to be delivered from evil.

***** Here’s another great example from the Old Testament. King Jehoshaphat heard that three nations had teamed up against him and were sending a huge combined army against him. He called a solemn fast and the nation of Judah assembled in Jerusalem to fast and pray. But before Jehoshaphat prayed for God’s help he first ADMITTED that he didn’t have enough strength and wisdom to get by on his own. However, at that time, Jehoshaphat could field an army of more than a million men. (**2 Chron. 17:14-18 says his army numbered 1,160,000 men!**) Yet, he didn’t trust in his own strength.

2Chr. 20:5-9 Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard and said: “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

2Chr. 20:10-12 “But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. O our God, will you not judge them? **For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.**”

***** Most leaders would not ADMIT in front of their followers that they didn’t have a clue as to what to do! Think of it! Jehoshaphat is leading the people first in expressing real HUMILITY—ADMITTING TO GOD THAT THEY COULDN’T HANDLE IT THEMSELVES even though they did have a formidable army. Then they asked for God’s direction by saying, “Our eyes are upon you”—meaning, “We are waiting for you to tell us YOUR strategy.”

The Spirit of God then came upon one of the Levites and he prophesied, He said: **“Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to**

you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you’” (2Chr. 20:15-17).

The king then ordered the choir to go out ahead of the army singing praises to God. Here’s the scriptural account. 2Chr. 20:22 As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

2Chr. 20:24-25 When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it.

***** NOW STOP AND THINK. Since Judah had a million man army themselves yet said they “had no power” to fight this even larger army—then perhaps more enemy troops died in battle that day than in any other day of warfare. It was a VAST army or perhaps 2 million or 3 million men. Never in the history of warfare have so many troops died in one day!

Then Jehosphat’s very large army combined with all the people still needed THREE DAYS to carry away all the supplies that vast army had!

Now—Jehoshaphat looked like the smartest and most powerful king on earth—and looked like the greatest leader! That’s one leadership lesson I’ve never heard anyone teach on. Ponder that. A leader admits in front of all of his followers that he feels weak and helpless and doesn’t know what to do. But it wasn’t a stupid move. He just ADMITTED his weakness and lack of wisdom and then ASKED for God’s help. Say out loud, “I CAN DO THAT!”

**** We should also notice that King Jehoshaphat led the whole nation to FAST. Apparently, when we admit our need for God with fasting it is like saying something with an exclamation point! It is an emphatic way to emphasize our admission of need and it gets Heaven’s attention. However, if we fast to prove that we are spiritual and deserve God’s blessing the fasting would be as ineffective as the Pharisee who boasted that he fasted twice a week. The wicked people of Nineveh (See the book of Jonah) admitted their guilt and their need for mercy. They put a big exclamation point on their admission by having all the people and even the animals fast. God had promised to destroy them within 40 days but when they admitted their sins and their need for God’s mercy He forgave them and the disaster was forestalled to a future generation.

HOW CAN YOU APPLY THIS VERY SIMPLE MESSAGE TO YOUR SITUATION?

Luke 14:11 Remember that Jesus said, **“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”**

Can you ADMIT that you don’t have a clue as how to solve your problems? Can you ADMIT that if you were led into temptation you’d probably fail? Can you ADMIT that you really need the coaching of the Holy Spirit—His leading, His teaching, His conviction, His reminders, His thoughts and His power? Having ADMITTED those things, just ASK!

John 16:23-24 **In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.