

- Jesus prays to the Father in our Gospel today: “...*although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to little ones.*”
- In that statement Jesus is not so much condemning intellectual ability. In fact, God gives us our abilities and talents, and we are responsible for cultivating them.
- But rather...Jesus is condemning intellectual pride.
- The Pharisees in His audience no doubt thought: “*What’s this wandering carpenter have to teach US...we who are the wise, the learned...the elite?!*”
- But a person can be as smart as Einstein and Tesla and Solomon put together...but unless he approach God with humble heart, it will be for naught.
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- There is a saying: “*The strength of the Christian is found in weakness.*”
- Modern ears don’t like that saying, because we are bombarded daily with the propaganda that money and power and fame lead to fulfillment.
- Yet each of those comes with great responsibility—for which we will be accountable to God.
- Because, when we go before God, it’s not money or power or fame that matters; it is only love and devotion to God, and the love of our neighbor...because Jesus says it very clearly in Mt 25—what we give to those in need, we give to Him...and what we withhold from those in need, we withhold from Him.
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- The world calls meekness and humility and simplicity foolishness and weakness...and despises it.
- But this prayer in the Gospel today of Jesus to his Father helps us realize the greatness of humility—and it is to the little ones he speaks of in the Gospel to whom is revealed the hidden things of God.

- And in order to provide us the greatest of examples, Jesus won our salvation through His own humiliation...not coming in royal magnificence, but rather in humility...without a trace of greatness—something unfathomable to a world which worships power and wealth.
- He seems small...attracting the lonely, the forgotten, the poor—those despised by the world...and yet he chooses them to be guardians of the secret of the salvation.
- We remember St. Paul: *“God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world...to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”* (1Co 1:27-29 RSV)
- We see this in the very fact that Jesus’ teachings were entrusted to simple fishermen to spread throughout the world.
- Likewise, St. Paul was the most educated and probably the wealthiest of any of the apostles...and yet HE gave up all—humbling himself—in order to preach and follow Christ.
- St. Augustine was once asked: “What are the three greatest virtues?” And he replied: “The first: humility; the second: humility; the third: humility.
  
- People often seek evidence of why we should believe in Jesus as God...or even in God at all.
- Well, here’s one: how likely...how reasonable...is it that such persons of low social status and education as the apostles could have initiated the longest lasting and largest religion in the world without a supernatural hand to guide it?
- Because it is through these insignificant men that Christ accomplished the greatest social transformation in history.
  
- The beatitudes proclaim happiness to the simple, the humble, those who seek peace.

- We see this fulfilled in history. Through the centuries some of the greatest saints are those who have changed history with nothing more than their faith:
  - St. Francis of Assisi with just the clothes on his back started a radical renewal in the Church...and now a Pope is named after him.
  - St. Therese—an unknown little Carmelite nun—whose “Little Way” of love and humility spread through the world like wildfire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century...
  - ...and Mother Teresa of Calcutta—one of the most beloved figures in modern history...not only for our Church, but for the world—not because of power and money, but simply out of her love of God and neighbor.
  - And time fails us to speak of St. Elizabeth, St. Rose of Lima, St. Lawrence, St. Martin de Porres, St. Isaac Jogues, and many other humble saints who found joy in humility.
- Can we not see the contrast? We see the joy of the humble saints, but how often do movie stars, singers, other persons and celebrities who we admire seem so forlorn...their lives often like train wrecks.
- True liberty...true happiness...true and authentic beauty is in the mystery of the simple soul...not meaning that we shouldn't strive to the best of our abilities...but always recognizing priority... that life in and with God matters far above all.
- Only in meekness and simplicity can we call ourselves real disciples of Christ...who himself was humble of heart.
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- Jesus chose not to be born of kings, but in order to give an example to us of humility, he chose to be born in a stable among farm animals.
- The king of the universe lived as a common workman—sawdust in his eyes...sweat dripping off his brow...blisters on his hands.

- And we have our Blessed Mother... the humble, pure maiden chosen by God out of all time for the greatest honor in history.
- Not because she is the daughter of kings, but because her soul was beautiful...chaste, free from sin...and she unhesitatingly accepts the will of God even though by doing so endangers her own life—for she risked being stoned to death.
- But for her...no danger dissuades, because her guiding light is the humility and simplicity that God cherishes...and thus through her comes the source of our salvation.
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- Jesus says today: *“No one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.”*
- This is one of the greatest claims that Jesus ever made...that He alone can reveal God to Man.
- He is saying: *“If you want to know God, you must come to me.”*
- As one commentator has written: *“It is the Christian conviction that in Jesus Christ alone we see what God is like; and...that Jesus can give that knowledge to anyone who is humble enough and trustful enough to receive it.”* (William Barclay)
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- St. James reminds us in his letter: *“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* (Jam 4:6 RSV)...and as God says through the prophet Isaiah: *“This is the one whom I approve: the lowly and afflicted man who trembles at my word.”* (Isa 66:2 NAB)...not a fear such as terror, but the respect and reverence given to a Father.
- So let us take Jesus’ gentle yoke upon our shoulders...seeking to be lowly and humble of heart...always remembering what St. Francis so wisely reminds us: *“What we are in the eyes of God is what we are...and nothing more.”*

Reading 1  
[Zec 9:9-10](#)

Thus says the LORD:  
Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,  
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king shall come to you;  
a just savior is he,  
meek, and riding on an ass,  
on a colt, the foal of an ass.  
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,  
and the horse from Jerusalem;  
the warrior's bow shall be banished,  
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.  
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm  
[Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14](#)

**R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

I will extol you, O my God and King,  
and I will bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and holy in all his works.

The LORD lifts up all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

Reading II

[Rom 8:9, 11-13](#)

Brothers and sisters:

You are not in the flesh;  
on the contrary, you are in the spirit,  
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,  
the one who raised Christ from the dead  
will give life to your mortal bodies also,  
through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Consequently, brothers and sisters,  
we are not debtors to the flesh,  
to live according to the flesh.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,  
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,  
you will live.

Gospel

[Mt 11:25-30](#)

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for although you have hidden these things  
from the wise and the learned  
you have revealed them to little ones.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father,  
and no one knows the Father except the Son  
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;

and you will find rest for yourselves.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”