

Evening Sermon / January 16, 2022 / Psalm 131 “The High Calling of Humility”  
A Song of Ascents. Of David.

I. *Ascending (in God’s Kingdom) means first descending, humility –*

1 LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. Psalm 131:1 (NKJV)

1. *Note this Psalm is a Psalm of ascent, we usually (in our culture, not Biblically) connect ascending with:*

A. *Looking out for #1*

B. *Being aggressive, fighting, throwing competitors down, like a king of the mountain ...*

2. *Yet, Jesus tells us it is the meek who inherit the earth –*

Matthew 5:5 (NKJV) ***5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.***

A. *For Jesus, meekness is not weakness, but strength under control, God’s control –*

B. *Humility is repeatedly recommended in Scripture –*

***9 The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. Psalm 25:9 (NKJV)***

***19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. Proverbs 16:19 (NKJV)***

***19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 29:19 (NKJV)***

***6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6 (NKJV)***

***10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10 (NKJV)***  
*Here is the key to ascending in God’s Kingdom, humility (which is fitting for our weakness, even sinfulness) humble about ourselves ... but confidence in God, He lifts us!*

II. *We too often go crazy, like a screaming baby, but we must be like a successfully weaned child, truly calmed, even within -*

***2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. Psalm 131:2 (NKJV)***

1. *This is about going for something for which we have a strong desire, like a babe desiring mama’s milk, there is typically a loud cry when we are DENIED ...*

A. *Sometimes this cry is heard by all the world, definitely heard by God –*

***26 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. 28 Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: 29 The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Numbers 14:26–29 (NKJV)***

B. *Yet, God hears unrighteous complaining, heart-aching, discontent, even if we keep it hidden in our hearts / souls –*

*Wild, ulcer creating anxiety is the way of the world, but God gives us inner peace -*

**<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)**

Weaned from what? Self-sufficiency, self-will, self-seeking. From creatures and the things of the world—not, indeed, as to their use, but as to any dependence upon them for his happiness and portion.... John Jay

III. *This is a lesson for all of God's people, hope in the LORD -*

**2 O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever. Psalm 131 (NKJV)**

1. *Hope is always for things we do not see, feel and taste yet -*

**<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance. Psalm 42:5 (NKJV)**

A. *We, if we understand hope, can speak to our disquieted souls about it ↑*

B. *Hoping in God means seeing all of His providence in our lives positively –*

**<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)**

2. *Real permanent disappointment is impossible, for those who know God -*

**Disappointment** Poet: Edith Lillian Young

"Disappointment - His appointment": Change one letter, then I see That the thwarting of my purpose Is God's better choice for me. His appointment must be blessing, Though it may come in disguise; For the end from the beginning Open to his wisdom lies.

"Disappointment - His appointment": Whose? The Lord's who loves me best, Understands and knows me fully, Who my faith and love would test; For, like loving earthly parent, He rejoices when he knows That his child accepts, unquestioned, All that from his wisdom flows.

"Disappointment - His appointment": "No good thing will he withhold"; From denials we oft gather Treasures of his love untold. Well he knows each broken purpose Leads to fuller, deeper trust, And the end of all his dealings Proves our God is wise and just.

"Disappointment - His appointment": Lord, I take it, then, as such, Like the clay in hands of potter, Yielding wholly to thy touch. All my life's plan is thy molding; Not one single choice be mine; Let me answer, unrepining, "Father, not my will, but thine."

"Disappointment - His appointment": Change the letter, then, dear friend; Take in cheerful acquiescence All thy Father's love may send. Soon will faith be lost in vision; Then in glory thou shalt see "His appointment," and that only, Was the right way home for thee.

*Arnold Brewick*