

COMING BACK TO GOD

Message 4

INTRO: Our subject is coming back to God. When Solomon had dedicated the temple to God, later God came to him and spoke to him. And 2 Chronicles 7:12 says:

12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice."

And God, knowing that man is prone to wander and that he would wander, then said:

13 "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people..

God was so sure of what would happen that He said, "When I shut up heaven..." not "If I shut up heaven..." The principles of this passage are very applicable to the individual Christian as well as to the Church. When the Church becomes healthy, it soon begins to deteriorate again. We are in a cycle, that I hope has almost bottomed out. When such times come, God has to shut up heaven.

So God said, "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain..." The picture is that of a parched, dried out land that thirsts for water. Dust and death are in the air. It is a picture of the spiritual condition of the people as well. You see when God has to discipline His people, the setting is a time that is one of drought and grasshoppers in the land; a time of blight and blasting. God has allowed a hard time to set in because of the hardness of the people. We find ourselves in such circumstances spiritually sometimes because the soul has grown hard and callous. But worse yet, today we find the Church in such a state.

We have seen short times without rain here in our area, but we have never seen a drought of any magnitude. Let me describe such a time in the words of another. Many years ago I read a book by evangelist Dr. John R. Rice. He writes of people, when their hearts are like this. In his writings he quotes B. H. Carroll who describes such a time like this: *I have witnessed a drought*

in Texas. The earth was iron and the heavens brass. Dust clouded the thoroughfares and choked the travelers. Watercourses ran dry, grass scorched and crackled, corn leaves twisted and wilted, stock died around the last water holes, the ground cracked in fissures, and the song of birds died out in parched throats. Men despaired. The whole earth prayed: 'Rain, rain, rain! O Heaven, send rain!' Suddenly a cloud rises above the horizon and floats into vision like an angel of hope. It spreads a cool shade over the burning and glowing earth. Expectation gives life to desire. The lowing herds look up. The shriveled flowers open their tiny cups. The corn leaves untwist and rustle with gladness. And just when all trusting, suffering life opens her confiding heart to the promise of relief, the cloud, the cheating cloud, like a heartless coquette, gathers her drapery about her and floats scornfully away, leaving the angry sun free to dart his fires of death into the open heart of all suffering life.

There is a picture of the Church today. We had a few messages on leaving God. When we leave God, the picture becomes that of a drought, or a picture of a diseased time, like a time of disease, when people are dying like flies. When we leave God, that is what happens. Recently I was asked if I would consider translating the Hymn, "Oh, Why Not Tonight." And in searching for the lyrics I came across the Louvin Brothers who sang it, and I listened to it on the Internet. I was working away while it played and it went on to another song in which these same singers wrote these lines in a song called, "If We Forget God. These lyrics caught my attention. They write:

If we forget God, Satan will rule
If we forget God, our nation is doomed

Now they were born in the 1920's so you know their music is that of yesterday. But I want to show you what has happened to us. Here is the first stanza:

The stories and pictures in most magazines
now feature new stylings unfit to be seen
They're placed on the newstand where children can buy
when they go wrong do we wonder why.

These songs were popular radio songs. The magazines of those days pale in light of what is now happening. Today, it is not only the newsstands; our Malls are not fit for adults, and our magazine racks in grocery stores are filled with pictures unfit to be seen. Something has happened to us. What would real revival do to us? Their next stanza is:

If we forget God, his mercy will flee
And sin will cover the land and the sea
If we forget God, Satan will rule
If we forget God our nation is doomed.

Today we are reaping years of things let go in the Church. Our barren Church did not suddenly come upon us. And we are now in no wise anywhere near to stemming the tide, as far as I can see. Maybe God's mercy will return, but it will only return when we return to Him. Oh for showers of blessing on a dry and parched Church.

So we have looked at who is involved in coming back to God. God said, "If My people who are called by My name..." It is Christians who have drifted away from God. Now we want to begin to look at what is involved in coming back to God. The principles of this passage are true for all time. We are looking at one of the most common passages dealing with the subject of coming back to God.

So God has said, "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if my people, which are called by My name shall humble themselves..." Here is principle number 1: Drifted sinners must humble themselves.

B. What Is Involved

1. Humility

So, let us look at principle number one in God's people returning to Him; humility! Our passage says: *...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves...* The lost world will never get saved until God's people become humble. And that will require dealing with sin. We have all kinds of programs to reach out to the lost but there is

something missing, because it can't be programmed. It is bringing man to where he will deal with personal sin. And before anyone, especially the Christian, will deal with personal sin, he must humble himself. God will not humble him. He must humble himself. It is the sinner's task, and no sinner; whether Christian or not, enjoys humbling himself. And there is principle number one in coming back to God.

-What has happened

Now, the fact that in such a time as described in our passage, Christians need to humble themselves, it tells us what the problem has been. The Christian has drifted away from God. That happens by sin of some kind or another. We must note that something has happened over the course of time. There is only one need why God's people would need to humble themselves. It is this: Pride has set in somewhere. Pride results in sin. Oh the stench of pride. Oh the ugliness of pride; but oh how appealing it is when we do not recognize it. It lies buried in the hearts of all mankind. There are many different kinds of people; some look humble, some look proud, but no matter how they look, pride lurks in every heart in one form or another.

When we look around and realize we are not of much account in comparison to others, we hide in a pride entirely different from others who think they are something. I see some brands of pastors walk into church and step into the podium with such a look of humility, they look like they have hit rock bottom, but it is nothing but a false humility. And what is false humility. It is pride with a humble appearance. It is hypocrisy. We were in a restaurant in town, and it had a new word. It was *humblebrag*. I forget the definition but it is boasting cloaked in words that make you sound humble.

Then I see pastors walk up into the pulpit as if they own the world, and there you have another kind of pride. I see Mennonite women with a dress that is made according to code, and modest dress is biblical, but a lot of pride can hide in such dress. Then there are those who have to be dressed just so, so; and all kinds of pride can live there. There is pride of dress. Oh, I must look like this or that. And when I look like that, I feel that I am somebody important. There is even a pride that glories in funerals or tragedies. Andrew Murray says pride can clothe itself with the garments of praise or of penitence (42). Then there is pride of vehicle. Some man feels like he is somebody because he is sitting in such or such a car or big pick-up truck.

Then there is pride of prestige. Prestige is when you feel like you are something when others look up to you when you enter their presence. But prestige wilts when others look at you with disrespect or disdain. It is respect and or admiration because of one's standing or status or reputation; fame, renown, esteem, importance, or anything one possesses, and even if it is only good looks.

Maybe I have a lot of land, and enter the presence of people; say in a restaurant, and people take note of who I am, and if that does something to me; that is pride. When it makes me feel like somebody; that is the outcome of prestige. Or maybe I am a pastor, and things hush when I walk in; if that does something to me, pride lurks somewhere. How many thrive on such things? As soon as people do not sit up and take notice when I am around, I must do things to make sure they take note. Oh, how subtle these things are, and oh how we can delight in them, but it is empty pride. And how do sinning Christians overcome this? Henry Martin always wanted to be top debater in his class. He got there, and found he had grasped a shadow. No substance. Then he became a missionary, and died a

young man, if I remember right. He gave his life for something with substance.

There are so many different ways pride takes hold of us. In this we are no match for Satan. God must visit us. Pride is basically selfishness, self-centeredness. As long as I am caught up with myself, that is pride. Has there ever been a more me-driven society than today?

-What humility is

But our passage says, if My people which are called by My name will humble themselves. Turn to Isaiah 66. We ask, just what is humility? If you were to define humility, how would you define it. Look at verses 1-2:

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"

You know who is speaking here? When it says LORD, all in capitals, it is Jehovah God. Here is Almighty God. Here is the Creator of the universe. In just six days He created everything there is. In one day He created the sun, the moon, and all the galaxies. And do you know how proud God is of that? It says, "And He created the stars also." And so in Isaiah He says, "What place can you make for Me to dwell in?" He is saying, "You can't make any place for Me to dwell because I made all the things you will make something out of." Verse 2 says, "For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist." They are already there. You cannot make a place for Me to live.

And then He says, "But." That means a contrast is coming. You can take all of Creation. You can take all the galaxies. In all the space of zillions of light years, there is no place for God to rest, "But." Ah, maybe there is yet one place left where God Almighty can rest. The word 'but' gives us

hope. You see, there is a place He wants to rest, but He can't make that place. Only man can make that place. So look at verse 2:

2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word."

Oh what a contrast to what we think! There is a place for God to rest! There is a place where He can dwell and rest! And it is a place he did not make. Where is it? It is in a person who has *humbled himself* before God. When pride enters, God exits. There is no room for God and pride to dwell together. When we humble ourselves, God enters. He comes back. He cannot rest in a proud person.

And in that person who humbles himself, there God at last finds a place of rest! It is in the one who is of a contrite spirit! You remember what Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit!" Pride sneers at the poor in spirit, the contrite ones! Pride does not mind looking like one is contrite, if need be; but please do not take pride where humility is! It can't stand it. Humility makes pride sick. Pride hates humility.

You see, there is something very subtle about pride. It does not let you know it is inside. Someone said it is like bad breath. Everybody else knows we have it, but we ourselves! It is so very subtle. Let me give a few quotes from Andrew Murray. He says, "Let us, at the very commencement of our meditations, admit that there is nothing so natural to man, nothing so insidious and hidden from our sight, nothing so difficult and dangerous as pride" (Humility, pg. 5).

And again, "Let all teachers of holiness, whether in the pulpit or on the platform, and all seekers after holiness, whether in the closet or the convention, take warning. There is no pride so

dangerous, because none so subtle and insidious as the pride of holiness. It is not that a man ever says or even thinks, 'Stand by; I am holier than thou.' No, indeed, the thought would be regarded with abhorrence. But there grows up all unconsciously, a hidden habit of soul, which feels complacency in its attainments, and cannot help seeing how far it is in advance of others" (45).

In another place he says, "The humble man feels no envy or jealousy" (36). Let me add, the humble man feels no prestige either. But true humility is not someone who does not have the capacity for envy or jealousy, or getting high on prestige etc... True humility is someone who has found he or she has these things dwelling within and has overcome them by the grace, or power of God. Such is the one in whom God has found a resting place!

Andrew Murray writes, "Is it any wonder that the Christian life is so often feeble and fruitless, when the very root of the Christ life (i.e. humility) is neglected or unknown? Is it any wonder that the joy of salvation is so little felt, when that in which Christ found it and brings it, is so little sought? Until a humility which will rest in nothing less than the end and death of self; which give up all honor of men as Jesus did, to seek the honor that comes from God alone; which absolutely makes and counts itself nothing, that God may be all, that the Lord alone may be exalted, until such a humility be what we seek in Christ above our chief joy, and welcome at any price, there is little hope of a religion that will conquer the world" (10).

And again, he writes, "I cannot too earnestly plead with my reader, if possibly his attention has never yet been specially directed (to) the lack of humility within him or around him, to pause to ask whether he sees much of the spirit of the meek and lowly Lamb of God in those who are called by His name. Let him consider how all want of love; all indifference to the needs, the feelings, the weakness of others; all sharp and hasty judgments and utterances, so often excused

under the plea of being outright and honest; all manifestations of temper and touchiness and irritation; and all feelings of bitterness and estrangement have their roots in nothing but pride, that ever seeks itself, and his eyes will be opened to see how a dark, shall I not say a devilish pride creeps in almost everywhere, the assemblies of the saints not excepted. Let him begin to ask what would be the effect if in himself and around him, if towards fellow saints and the world, believers were really permanently guided by the humility of Jesus; and let him say if the cry of our whole heart, night and day, ought not to be, Oh for the humility of Jesus in myself and all around me! let him honestly fix his heart on his own lack of the humility, which has been revealed in the likeness of Christ's life, and in the whole character of His redemption, and he will begin to feel as if he had never yet really known what Christ and His salvation are" (11).

-Whose responsibility humility is

Now notice our verse for another very important point on humility. It tells us who is responsible that we are humble. Who is it? We, ourselves! It says, "If My people...will humble themselves." We said earlier that God cannot make this place. He can do everything necessary to bring it about, but we must make this one and only place where He can dwell. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God!" We must humble ourselves. Every other place in the universe God has made. But the humble place we must make. And here, and here alone God can rest in peace.

It is an interesting thing that to become humble we must humble ourselves. God cannot humble us. Others cannot humble us. They might humiliate us, but they cannot humble us. We, and we alone must do that. You have heard the saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." God can bring us to the place of humility, but we must do it.

Now there is a major problem with becoming humble. The problem is recognizing pride in ourselves. How can we humble ourselves if we don't even recognize the problem in ourselves? I want to propose to you that only God can show us who we are. And He does so in his Word, and in the preaching and teaching of that Word. It is the mirror of the Word of God where we get to see ourselves.

-But we must be exposed and become broken

But there is another thing to consider. Something must happen before we humble ourselves. Verse 13 of our passage says, *"When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people..* Here is what has happened. The Christian has become proud. God has departed. That is the reason He shuts up heaven or sends locusts and pestilences. So, first, there is pride. And man, left to himself, would jolly well go to hell in his pride if God did not step in.

So God steps in and He withholds rain or sends pestilence or grasshoppers. Why? To expose to the Christian that there is a problem. If God did not expose our problem to us, we would never come out of pride. It is far too strong, far too blinding, far too big for us. We have to be exposed. Oh, blessed exposure. Oh painful exposure.

So here is the cycle. Someone gets truly saved. They have both truly repented of their sins and truly believe in the Savior. And then slowly, maybe through some little distraction, some little sin, some self-seeking and a move away from God begins. This leads to more, and pride sets in deeper and won't let him go back without breaking, or without humbling himself. So we dig in our heels when reproof happens, and we won't bend.

Then, finally, when God sees an opportune time, He lets dryness of soul and finally conviction of sin

set in. And now, "If My people, which are called by My name will humble themselves..." There is step one in returning. It is an irreversible principle; humility first.

Now, though some of you will remember some of this, let me give you an example of how big the task of bringing man to repentance is. To break a man of pride is a monstrous job, as we will see. Turn to Job 38. I mentioned Job in the last message. I recommended to you that spiritual pride, the most difficult pride of all prides to deal with, had found its way into Job's heart. His friends accused him of all kinds of sin, but they had no idea of what the real issue was, because they themselves were swallowed up by all kinds of pride.

Andrew Murray says, "Let all teachers of holiness, whether in the pulpit or on the platform, and all seekers after holiness, whether in the closet or the convention, take warning. There is no pride so dangerous, because none so subtle and insidious as the pride of holiness. It is not that a man ever says or even thinks, 'Stand by; I am holier than thou.' No, indeed, the thought would be regarded with abhorrence. But there grows up all unconsciously, a hidden habit of soul, which feels complacency in its attainments, and cannot help seeing how far it is in advance of others" (45).

And we saw God allow Satan to attack Job in many ways, only he was not allowed to take his life. And then day after day went by; his wife accused him and his friends tried to straighten him out, and God remained silent. And I have recommended that God cannot speak with any real benefit until our hearts can hear. So Scripture says, "He that has an ear to hear, let him hear." There is a problem. Most of mankind, and many a Christian, does not have ears to hear. Much must usually happen when pride has set in, before man has open ears.

You see, God finally broke the silence. He opened His mouth and spoke. It says in Job 38:

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? (He is speaking to Job about Job.)

3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me."

God is saying, "So, you wanted an opportunity to speak to Me and tell Me a few things? Let Me first ask you a few questions." First question, no answer; second question, no answer and on and on until God until it was sure nothing was forthcoming.

So after all these questions with no answers, look at chapter 40:

1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:

2 "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

God is saying, "OK Job, I am giving you a chance to answer the Almighty. You may feel free to correct Me now. You think I have allowed an injustice. Please answer how you think this." Verse 3 says:

3 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

4 "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

5 Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

Now I propose, we will never see ourselves until we get a glimpse of God. I want you to notice what Job said after He heard from God. He said first, "I am

vile." Job had gotten a look at God, and when he saw God right, he got to see himself right. As long as we are selfish or proud we can never see God right. Now Job had heard directly from God, and it gave him a look inside himself. What he saw was vileness. That is what has to happen before we humble ourselves. And then he said, "You know Lord. I spoke too soon. I did have some things to say to You, but Lord, I did not realize that I actually know so very little. Forgive me Lord, I lay my hand over my mouth. I have said all I have to say, and that is no longer about how badly You botched things with me, as I thought You did; it is now about me. Oh I am so vile."

Turn to Luke chapter 5. One day Jesus was teaching by the seashore, and when He was done teaching He said to the disciples, "Go out in the deep and let your nets down for a catch." Peter said, "Lord, we've fished all night and caught nothing, nevertheless, at Your Word we'll let down the nets. Luke 5:6-8 then says:

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

He had been with the Lord and had not recognized Him. When he recognized Him, he became a sinful man in his own eyes. Our major problem is not recognizing who the Lord God Almighty is. When once we see Him for who He is, our own sinfulness immediately grows big in our own sight. That is what happened to Peter here.

Well, when Job had confessed he was vile, the Lord said, "Well. Nice. We can now proceed. Let me tell you something that relates directly to you." Verse 6:

6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

7 "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

8 "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

Here is how I understand this. Job, You think there is a little something wrong with My judgment? You think I have wronged you by letting all this happen to you that has happened? You think, perhaps I overdid it? You think you know better than I, is that it? Would you like to show me to be wrong, so that you could be shown to be right? Is that it Job?" Verse 9:

9 Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Do you suppose Job, that you are able to do anything like I can? You can speak and things change? Well, here is my challenge to you Job, verse 10:

10 Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty.

God is saying, "OK, I'll give you a chance. Get dressed up in majesty and splendor. Do all you can to make yourself look like the greatest possible guy you can. Get dressed like one of the greatest of men with glory and beauty. And when you have done that, do this: verse 11:

11 Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him.

12 Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place.

13 Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden darkness.

The Lord is saying, "Choose out everyone who is proud. Send out your rage and your wrath and humble the proud. No, no, don't ruin them with strength. No, make them humble. You see Job, you have to bring them to the point where they choose to be humble because of what you have done. Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low, or to humility. Yes, bring them down to where they say what you just said, 'Behold, I am vile'. That is your job now Job. And Job, listen now, if you can do that: verse 14:

14 Then I will also confess to you That your own right hand can save you.

"Job, if you can bring the proud to humility, you don't need me anymore. You don't need God, because what I have just described to you, only God can do, and sometimes even He cannot do this! So, if you kind of think you know better than I on how to deal with Christians in whom the cancer of pride has set in, please, feel free to begin now."

May I ask those listening, do you think if you were God, you would know a little better than God does how to arrange your circumstances in life? Do you think you would remove this or that, or add this or that? Well, God is saying, please have at it. And if you can do that, and truly become humble, you will never need Me again. You will be God!

And then God takes the largest land animal and He says, "Job, take the largest land animal I have made, behemoth. Put a ring in his nose and tame him. If you can do that, you might be able to make proud people humble. But you see, Job, you could never even do that, and I made behemoth! Or Job,

take leviathan. Now he is the largest sea creature. He weighs as much as three logging trucks. Now take a fishing line, cast it in the sea, hook leviathan and bring him in on a fishing line. If you can do that, you might consider trying to make proud people humble. And if you can't do that, I'll tell you what; you best leave your circumstances in life to Me. You had best learn to trust Me with your circumstances in life. My wife and I listened to a speaker recently who said, "Shipwrecked on God and stranded His omnipotence." Are you there?

The speaker gave the illustration of a lady who got news that there was nothing more they could do for her cancer, she would have to trust God. And she said, "Oh my, has it come to that!" May I ask you, have you come to that in life? You can't run it, you can't change things, they are horrible; and it has come to trusting God. "Oh my, has it come to that."

One year we were fishing salmon on the river. The water was a bit muddy and fishing was very slow. And toward the end of the day I hooked a salmon, and my brother said, "Do I need to get the boat?" And I said, "No. He's coming. I think I can handle him." And I got it close to shore and it turned tail and ran, and my fishing reel sang as the line peeled out. And when it got to the end, snap! And it was all over!

It might have weighed, say 20-30 pounds. Now imagine Leviathan weighing, say as much as a couple of logging trucks, and you have him on a fishing line, what are the chances of getting him in? Is there such a thing as less than zero? That, God is saying to Job, is your chance of making proud people humble.

Chapter 42:

1 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

2 *"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.*

3 *You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*

Job is saying something like this: Oh Lord, I had no idea of what I was talking about. I spoke but I did not understand that it is this big. What You have shown me is so far beyond me, I spoke, but I admit I knew nothing. And so Job said in verse 4:

4 *Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'*

Job is saying, "Lord, I am now ready to speak. You said, "I will question you, and you shall answer Me." Lord, I am now ready to speak. I now have things to say to You. Please listen to me." Verse 5:

5 *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.*

Job is saying, "I have heard about you Lord. And because I had heard, I thought I knew. But Lord God, now my eye sees You. I had no idea You were this big. Oh God, you are big, so very big, and I am small, so very small. And this is what all this has done to me. I have gotten to see who I am. Oh, Lord, *Therefore, Verse 6: I abhor myself...*

Job is saying, "I thought I had really seen myself before. I saw I was vile. I was, but now, Lord, I abhor myself. The stench of self in me is sickening Lord. I want to get away from myself. I want to be free of myself. I am a bad, very bad. Deliver me from myself, please Lord."

Now I want to tell you about whom we are talking here. Listen as I read it for you from Job 1:1, *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was*

Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. I ask you, if this perfect and upright man was like this, where are you? Where am I?

But look at the outcome in the rest of the verse. Job said:

"Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."

"If My people which are called by My name will humble themselves..." And you can read the blessing that follows in the book of Job.

CONCL: So, in conclusion, who is it that needs revival? Who is it that needs to return to God? The Christian who is leaving God! He may be a pastor, a deacon; serving well and all looks well. But unknown to him, he is leaving God. He may be a Christian who has backslidden and has allowed sin into his or her life. His thinking may be far from Christian, but he thinks all is well. And then God withdraws and allows things into his or her life. And I believe many never respond to God, and many may live a defeated Christian life because they do not have an ear to hear.

And so today, if the Lord spoke, today is the day to turn. Sometimes we have to humble ourselves and go to our partner and confess our sins. Some of us might need to go to a boss and repent, say for time squandered or taking things home that do not belong to us. It may be cheating on tax. It may be a confession of a child to a parent, or a parent to a child. It may be any number of a myriad of things.

Whatever it is, it will require first of all, humbling of oneself. I ask you, is there a thing between you and another that has not been taken care of? What takes greater humbling? The first step away from God is some sin, however small it may be. The first step back is humbling. This is repentance and confession.