

It's always been true: the Lord humbles the proud, and raises up the humble. One reason is because we can only truly live by faith – trusting in the Lord, not in ourselves – and this is what the humble do, while the proud (whose confidence is in themselves) cannot.

1. How has the Lord humbled you?

Read Luke 19:47-20:8, in which those authorized to judge others come to trap Jesus, only to find themselves trapped and humiliated. Take a moment to admire Jesus' skill and craft: the judges are made publicly to confess they are unable to judge.

2. What do the judges assume about their own authority?

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Pride can be as simple as this: thinking we know better than Jesus: thinking we get to ask the questions.

3. What claims or promises of Jesus do you struggle to believe? What assumptions fuel that struggle?
4. What if Jesus got to ask the questions? What is he currently asking you?

Jesus does not turn away the proud: he humbles them, ever hoping that they might consent to learn from him. He will do this for us, over and over. He will do this for others, too, as we humbly pray.

For an illustration of humility at work, read Mark 9:14-29. This time, admire the straight-up honesty of the man at the story's centre, who doesn't pretend he has more faith than he has. Humility can be as simple as this: not pretending to be more than we are, especially in the presence of Jesus!

5. How much faith did this man "need" to prompt Jesus to act?
6. Where in your life do you long for the Lord's intervention, but have thought you had too little faith to ask?

Pray together for these things, then ask the Lord to grow your faith: "I believe! Help my unbelief!"