

Kneeling Down

Part 1

Beautiful thing that you should not forfeit; kneeling down at the feet of the Lord. The Scriptures are full of examples and stories of people who recognized and enjoyed to be at his feet.

1- ***"18 While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.'*** (Matthew 9:18) This man was in desperate need for the Lord. He faced the event of the death of his daughter. He was a ruler but the event of the death made him humble and crushed his pride. Even he was not mindful about people seeing him kneeling down at the feet of Jesus. Many they are those who kneel down in front of idols and statues, but these idols and statues will take them to hell. How much more to be humble and kneel down at the feet of the Lord who is giver of life? ***"23 When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, 24 he said, 'Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. 25 After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. 26 News of this spread through all that region."*** (Matthew 9:23-26)

2- ***"1 When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, 'See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.'" (Matthew 8:1-4)*** People with leprosy they were kept outside the towns and cities because they were considered unclean. Leprosy also linked with sin and the spiritual deterioration of the person. They were excluded and cannot go in again and back to the normal social life unless they are clean. Therefore that man who was affected by leprosy he was looking for God's mercy, so he came and knelt before Jesus and said, ***"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."*** He was begging for God's mercy and his willingness to heal him. If you are in sin and had done wrong, approach the Lord in repentance and kneel down at his feet and beg him for mercy to forgive you, heal you and restore you.

3- ***"14 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 15 'Lord, have mercy on my son,' he said. 'He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.' 17 'O unbelieving and perverse generation,' Jesus replied, 'how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.' 18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment."*** (Matthew 17:14-18) Another man who was trouble because of his son condition being demon possessed, he humbled down, came and approached the Lord and knelt before him and asked Him mercy. You can do the same and approached the Lord with humility and asked His mercy to solve your current serious problem. ***"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*** (Hebrews 4:16)

4- ***"21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.' 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.' 24***

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.' 25 The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said. 26 He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.' 27 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' 28 Then Jesus answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour." (Matthew 15:21-28) The faith of this woman was tested by the terrible trial of her daughter being demon possessed. She came to the disciples but they did not welcome her. The Lord Jesus Himself he was silent to her prayer and request. Even when he spoke to her he told her, ***"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."*** But she had great faith, she came and knelt before him and said, ***"Lord, help me!"*** Even when Jesus told her, ***"It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."*** The woman did not go away but she said ***"Yes, Lord,"*** and further added while she was kneeling down, ***"but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."*** You can learn good lessons from the life of this humble woman and how she had great faith that enabled her to receive God grace and mercy through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

All the above examples about people who came and knelt down before the Lord, they were suffering of terrible conditions that brought humility and faith in their lives to approach the Lord for help.

In the following example we will see another person who knelt down before the Lord asking. This person is the servant of Abraham whom Abraham sent to his own country and relatives to get a wife for Isaac. He was instructed not to take a woman from the Canaanites and not to take Isaac back there. This servant knelt down while he was in that mission. Let us read the story in ***Genesis 24*** about that servant and what we can learn about that servant sound faith unto God.

5- ***"10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. 11 He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. 12 Then he prayed, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. 14 May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'--let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.' 15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again. 17 The servant hurried to meet her and said, 'Please give me a little water from your jar.' 18 'Drink, my lord,' she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. 19 After she had given him a drink, she said, 'I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking.' 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. 21 Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful. 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. 23 Then he asked, 'Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?' 24 She answered him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor.' 25 And she added, 'We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.' 26 Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, 27 saying, 'Praise***

be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives." 28 The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. 29 Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring. 30 As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring. 31 "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD," he said. "Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." 32 So the man went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels, and water for him and his men to wash their feet. 33 Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say." "Then tell us," [Laban] said. 34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. 36 My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. 37 And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, 38 but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.' 39 "Then I asked my master, 'What if the woman will not come back with me?' 40 "He replied, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father's family. 41 Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you--you will be released from my oath.' 42 "When I came to the spring today, I said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. 43 See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar,' 44 and if she says to me, 'Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too,' let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.' 45 "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' 46 "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also. 47 "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' "She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' "Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, 48 and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. 49 Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn." (Genesis 24:10-49)

The following we can observe about this servant:

1- He was not facing a trouble or in dire emergency of his own as others in the previous examples. But he was faithful to the Lord and was keen to do the task that he was entrusted with.

2- All the people in the previous examples were in very terrible situations and were not ashamed of the people to kneel down before the Lord. But this man knelt down and worshipped the Lord even in public when the Lord answered His prayers. The other people knelt down out of desperate troubles in their lives, but this man knelt down out of his faithfulness and gratitude unto the Lord.

3- His faith in the Lord made him have a clear stand to serve God and do the mission task entrusted to him. His faith was manifested in awesome prayer, kneeling down and worship. He even testified to the people that for him to find Rebekah as wife for Isaac are the Lord's doing when he said "48 and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son." He went further and stood firm in his faith when he challenged the family of Rebekah with the following: "49 Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn." He knew that the Lord had led him to find Rebekah and it is up to them to obey God and comply with His will to give Rebekah to Isaac as a wife.

My Dear and Beloved: Life's trials and various experiences should build up our faith in the Lord. Kneeling down in front of the Lord is not only a way to show our faith and our reverence unto the Lord, but rather is the expression of sound faith and right relationship with the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth and the giver of life. The word of God in this message shall help you to understand how to worship God and how to live for Him as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that had opened my eyes to see new things. Lord increases my faith in you and helps me learn more from the circumstances that you allow to pass into my life. Lord reminds me always to kneel at your feet to ask you mercy and grace in times of need and to show my gratitude to all your favour and grace. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



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