

Friday

Please read Proverbs 13:10, 22:4, Ephesians 4:1–2 & Colossians 3:12–14. How do these verses describe humility and the benefits of a humble heart?

Thank God today for His perfect example of humility shown through Jesus. Pray that you'll focus on following in His steps and walking humbly with God.

Saturday

Please read Luke 18:9–14.

As you meditate on this passage today think about how in your life you are sometimes like the Pharisee. Now think about how you can be more like the tax collector. Ask God to soften your heart to His voice moving you away from a proud heart and towards a humble heart.



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PART 8

Relational Tipping Points

APRIL 13 & 14, 2013 • MARK SPURLOCK

Which way do I tip?

troubled relationships ▲ healthy relationships

1. Is my tongue _____ or _____ ?

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 12:18

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. *Proverbs 18:21*

A gossip separates close friends. *Proverbs 16:28b*

2. Am I _____ or _____ ?

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid. *Proverbs 12:1*

Mockers resent correction, so they avoid the wise. *Proverbs 15:12*

Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. *Proverbs 15:31*

3. Am I _____ or _____ ?

A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel. *Proverbs 15:18*

A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control. *Proverbs 29:11*

It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. *Proverbs 20:3*

4. Am I _____ or _____ ?

Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice, or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from him. *Proverbs 24:17–18*

over

What typically causes me to tip one direction or the other?



If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. *Proverbs 25:21–22*

Where there is strife, there is pride. *Proverbs 13:10a*

Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and **life**.
Proverbs 22:4

“The [Hebrew] verb ‘to live’ involves the ability to have life somewhere on the scale between the fullest enjoyment of all the powers of one’s being, with health and prosperity on the one hand and descent into trouble, sickness, and death on the other.” —Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

What is the ultimate relational tipping point?

1. When Jesus _____ !

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! *Philippians 2:8*

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

2. When I _____ and _____

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**” *Luke 18:9–14*

Monday

Please read Proverbs 12:18, 16:28 & 18:21. We have talked about the power of words several times in this series, but Proverbs keeps talking about it too! On the whole, would you say your words are marked by recklessness or restraint?

How would you like to use your words this week to build towards healthy relationships?

Thank God today for His power to help you. Ask Him to fill your speech with grace and use you to build healthy relationships with those around you.

Tuesday

Please read Proverbs 12:1, 15:12 & 31. Recall the last time someone approached to talk about an area of your life that needed attention — personal, work related — anything. Be honest — how did you respond internally? Were you defensive or correctable?

How will being humble enough to be correctable impact your relationships right now?

Thank God today for the honesty of the scriptures to deal with real issues. Thank Him for His love for you. Pray for a heart that is correctable and teachable. Pray that you will be a blessing!

Wednesday

Please read Proverbs 15:18, 20:3 & 29:11. When is the last time you lost temper? How did that impact your relationships?

What kind of words does these verses use to describe hot-tempered people? How do they describe even-tempered people?

Thank God today for His love for you. Talk to Him about the ways you struggle to control your temper. Ask Him to calm your heart and responses.

Thursday

Please read Proverbs 24:17–18 & 25:21–22. When are you most tempted to hold a grudge? When is it easiest for you to give grace?

Think about a grudge you’re currently struggling with. How is it impacting that relationship? How is it impacting your other relationships?

Thank God today that He doesn’t hold a grudge against you! Thank Him for His forgiveness. Pray that your actions towards others will reflect His love and forgiveness.



Memory Verse

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. *Ephesians 4:1–2*