



Humility and the Southern Steps: A Lesson from the Temple in Jerusalem

On my recent visit to the Holy Land, I was told that the Southern Steps of the Temple in Jerusalem hold a unique spiritual significance, not just as a historical location, but as a visual and physical metaphor for humility. These steps, designed with alternating wide and narrow widths, required anyone ascending them to carefully look down, taking each step with intentionality and humility. It was impossible to run up the steps with pride or haste, as the uneven design forced one to slow down and pay attention to where they placed their feet.

In biblical times, these steps led up to the Temple, the house of God, where people would come to worship, pray, and offer sacrifices. Christians believe that Jesus Himself stood on these very steps while preaching to the crowds, teaching profound lessons about the Kingdom of God. The Southern Steps thus became a platform not only for physical ascension but also for spiritual reflection.

The Design of the Steps: A Call to Humility

The design of the Southern Steps reflects an important truth found throughout Scripture: approaching God requires humility. One cannot rush into the presence of God carelessly or with pride. Just as those climbing the steps had to look down, ensuring their footing, so must we be mindful of our spiritual posture when approaching the Lord.

Proverbs 16:18 warns us that "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." The Southern Steps remind us that when we walk with pride, we are in danger of stumbling. But when we humble ourselves, looking down as we ascend, we remain grounded in our dependence on God. Just as these steps force people to watch their step, humility requires us to carefully examine our hearts before God.

Jesus' Teachings on Humility at the Temple

It is believed that Jesus taught on the Southern Steps, preaching to the people who gathered at the Temple. Though the Bible does not specify exactly which steps He used; it is likely that these were among the locations where He delivered His teachings. One of Jesus' most profound lessons on humility is found in **Matthew 23:12**, where He says, **"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."**

This teaching resonates deeply with the experience of walking the Southern Steps. To be exalted, or lifted up, we must first humble ourselves. Just as a worshiper had to bow their head while climbing the steps, acknowledging their own limitations, so too must we recognize our need for God's grace in our lives.

As I set and prayed on these steps, it impressed on my heart that I need to check myself often for the humble spirit God wants me to have as I share Jesus with those around me. I would encourage all Christians to show the world around them Jesus and His love humbly.

Grover Duling, Executive Board

Weekly Prayer Points

These past several weeks and the two that remain – many will be going to vote for candidates seeking office to serve in various national, state, and local governments. If you have yet to vote --- go. Pray that Heaven helps us to be a nation that serves the Lord. For Blessed and Happy is the nation that serves the Lord.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (**II Chronicles 7:14**)

Please pray for these congregations and pastors:

- Mlima Wa Karmeli Igunga congregation in Tanzania and Pastor Joseph S. Mwamlima
- Mlima Wa Makimbilo congregation in Tanzania and Pastor Elia Abdala Riiumbi

CBC Prayer Committee