

The Power of Humility

Humility isn't a popular virtue! In fact, among the Greeks and the Romans it wasn't considered a virtue at all. In a sixth-century BC list of 147 wise maxims, humility isn't even mentioned. For the ancient Greek or Roman, obtaining and defending honor was more a goal than humility ever could be.

Yet the Jewish faith values humility, as seen in Old Testament texts like the one we read today. The humble strength of conducting affairs quietly and justly makes you more loved—more so than someone who gives many gifts. Parents should reflect on this.

As Christians following a Savior who was great through his service, humility is not only recommended but becomes the ideal. Let the first be last. Let the greatest be the servant. Humility is simply living the truth of who you are. You are both great and insignificant. We can and should use all our knowledge and strength to sow the fields of creation, as in this painting. But only God gives growth.

Humility is favored by true self-knowledge. We are creatures and not the Creator. We don't make the rules of life or define right and wrong. We discover, accept, and love these laws. A healthy awareness of our limitations doesn't enslave us. It sets us free. A humble knowledge of the truth is empowering.

We are amazingly talented people, each uniquely loved and gifted by God. Each of us can achieve, and



Piece: *Prayer in the Field*, 1966
Artist: Mijo Kovačić
Location: Vatican Museums

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should strive for, the greatness he offers us. Humility makes us capable of true and lasting greatness—just look at Christ.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

How well do I know myself—both my strengths and weaknesses?

Do I see everything as a gift and respond with humility?

*My son, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.*

Sirach 3:17

