

Monday

Humility in Service

Today's Scripture 1 Timothy 1:12-17

It seems that all enjoy a good “rags to riches” story. That phrase usually references someone moving from poverty to riches, or from relative obscurity to great fame, often overcoming “insurmountable” odds. In his opening portion of his letter to Timothy, Paul writes as one who knows of such a story, but is actually speaking of himself.

As much of scripture shows, a hallmark of one coming into and maintaining a right relationship with God is humility, a recognition of the difference in his own weakness and God's holiness. Paul tells Timothy that he knows his own rags to riches story. Though he had quite a resume (see Philippians 3:4-6), he understood it was not enough. In addition, he states a passionate certainty that what Christ had done in him was much greater, stating: “*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ*” (Philippians 3:7).

In chapter one and verse 12, we see how Paul's own recognition of weakness would become his platform as spokesman to the Gentile world. Not “sugar-coating” his own sins (vs. 13), Paul reminds Timothy that he himself is a sinner. In fact, Paul, in ignorance, was acting contrary to God's own plan and all the while thinking he was a man of God! One may then wonder why Paul was chosen to carry the greatest message the Gentiles would have ever heard. He answers that question in verse 16, saying it would be so that the mercy and patience of God might be on display through him.

Who may ultimately enjoy a rags to riches story of their own because you first approached them and told them your story? Like Paul, when you know your own story, counting it a privilege to bear His name in the face of your own past sin, God can use you also to bring great messages to others.

Today, I will...consider how to tell my story with Christ in hopes of showing others how they, too can be used for Him.