



Why Does the Mockingbird Sing?



Lord, I Want More

- How many want more of God in your life? More power, more grace, more mercy, more love, more patience, more strength, more wisdom, more provision, more victory MORE!!!
- How often have you tried to get those things, only to eventually fail and be disappointed? In You AND God.
- What kind of things have you tried?



Have You Tried ... Nothing?

- 1 Peter 5: “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD ☹️, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE 😊.
- ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,
- ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”



Humility

THE *BEAUTY*
OF *HOLINESS*

ANDREW MURRAY

The life God bestows is imparted not once for all , but each moment continuously, by the unceasing operation of his mighty power. Humility, the place of entire dependence on God , is from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature. In fact it is the root of every virtue.

And so pride, or **the loss of this humility**, is the root of every sin and evil!



Nothing in a Nutshell

- Humility is the process of becoming less and less, so that God can become more and more. We are TERRIBLE at this!!!
- The art of becoming NOTHING, so GOD CAN BE EVERYTHING in our lives; sounds nuts!
- We haven't been taught this; really been taught the opposite of this: Do better and try harder. Make yourself more spiritual.
- But God wants us to be SMALLER so His Greatness and Glory can be revealed in us!!



People Think Humility is Hard

- You have to discipline yourself and fight your flesh and subdue it to achieve humility
- And that it involves a battle with selfishness and sin that you have to deny and resist and you have to constantly focus on doing better and trying harder in order to achieve true humility and be more like Jesus
- But that is a trap, because you can't come close to achieving humility by trying harder to be humble!!



But That is Backwards

- Humility isn't doing better or trying harder
- Humility is simply the art of surrendering to the love and peace and joy and rest that God offers us every minute of our lives
- So that in the middle of situations that normally produce anger and frustration and stress and strife and jealousy and bitterness and self-pity and manipulation, we instead surrender to His loving embrace and crawl into His lap, and say Abba, I am trusting you with this. It is too big for me.



Take the LAFBE Road

- deeply **loved** by God,
- fully **accepted** by God,
- completely and permanently **forgiven** by God,
- lavishly **blessed** by God,
- and eternally, perfectly **embraced** by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY



Studying the Humility Book

- A lot of us have just embarked on a study of the Humility book, and it is mind-blowing and heart-changing.
- Anna texted me this week with an observation this week: Andrew Murray seems to keep repeating the same premise over and over again in each chapter. It is Good, but is this all there is?
- Why does he keep going back to the same point?



Yes, but

- To be fair, yes, the same main point keeps coming up over and over again
- BUT, Murray is taking us through every possible situation and circumstance in Scripture and in real life to show us that there isn't ANY PART of our spiritual life or life in the real world where our focus isn't supposed to be absolute dependence on God, **because that is His plan for us.**



2+2 Is NOT 22

- If you had been raised your entire life believing $2+2$ is 22, how often would your checkbook balance?
- NEVER, but you would search high and low to figure it out, and blame everyone else in the process, and never fix it, until you learned the truth; you had been believing a lie the whole time - the formula you were taught to follow is wrong.
- “Humility” keeps drawing us back to absolute dependence, because we have a lot to unlearn

Northern Mockingbird





How Does It Sing?

- He copies all sorts of other bird songs, repeating, repeating, over and over, sometimes for hours. People must have thought this behavior was vaguely insulting to other birds, else we wouldn't have named this one the *mockingbird*.
- But listen more closely. You'll hear that this virtuoso bird isn't just copying other species' tunes. He's *sampling* them like a DJ - taking other songs he has heard and transposing, bending, tweaking them into his own unique deliberate song. We can always tell it's a mockingbird, not because of his copying, but because of his unique and specific way of composing music out of the material he hears in the world around him. Mockingbirds Are Better Musicians Than We Thought – Sci American



WHY Does it Sing This Way?

- Typical theories like attracting a mate or defining territory, which is fine
- But this bird's skills are insane. WHY is it so unique?
- BECAUSE GOD MADE THIS BIRD TO SING HIS HEART OUT. HE CAN'T HELP IT!!
- **He wouldn't be mockingbird if he didn't sing like this!!**



We Are Like Mockingbirds

- We are created for one purpose: to be receptacles for the life of Christ
- We are created to empty ourselves out so He can fill us with His love and Power
- We are created to get smaller so His Character and His Life can grow bigger and flow through us
- **We are created to live by absolutely depending on Him**
- **And we can't be who we are created to be until we do!**