

-Sirach: 75% of the 400 references to wisdom in the Old Testament are found in the Wisdom books / Humility is a trait often associated with the wise (3 Stages of Wisdom).

(THE FIRST STAGE OF WISDOM: is humility)

-Each of us are **CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE** (So Why would we be arrogant / Have a holier than thou attitude / or I am greater than others attitude)?

-My IQ isn't that of Albert Einstein (We all have different talents and gifts) / In the end we were created to **SERVE**, using these gifts where we are unique and different / And if we are humble: We will never put ourselves in an embarrassing situation (before God and/or before others) understanding the beauty of "Imago Dei."

-In **Hebrews** we find:

(THE SECOND STAGE OF WISDOM: is saying to God: You are God and I am NOT).

Entering the **City of the Living God** / When we understand the "The Power of Jesus" / The Power of His Blood / We would become Little / Humble / and then Wise / Because then we will come to Jesus humbly / Where Healing can happen / Again, because we understand Jesus is Almighty God, and we are not.

-Luke: -Image: The Wedding Banquet / (At table Jesus Observes the educated and the elite, invited to the Pharisees' dinner, continually jockeying for power, position, and prestige). I think, in humor, Jesus calls them out, and perhaps they laughed at themselves. Then Jesus gets serious and says:

Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

-We read the above and sometimes forget (We are sometimes the poor, crippled, lame, and the blind) / Certainly we can continue to support our Outreach Center & local soup kitchens / **AND TO SERVE GOD** / But the above reminded me of:

-One day while sitting in the Seminary Refectory I thought: we are like Rudolf's Island of **MISFIT TOYS** / We are all broken in some way / But Like those broken toys that were eventually loved, and brought love to the children that Christmas mourn.

-We seminarians are an amusing lot, but in humility, when we let God work, He does extraordinary things through our brokenness, just like those toys.

(THE THIRD STAGE OF WISDOM: is the humility to give our weakness and wounds to this all powerful and mighty God - in Whom WE ARE NOT.

-If we are afraid to look inward / To address our weakness, wounds and brokenness.

-Then how can we heal others, if we are too proud to give our own wounds to Jesus?

-Pride (Fear) allows us to ignore our own wounds, weaknesses and hurts.

-In humility / When we understand the Power of Jesus / The Divine Healer / And in our Littleness / Give our weakness to Him / Give Him our hearts / **HEALING** occurs. Think Humpty Dumpty...He is slowly putting us back together again.

-Humility allows us to see beyond our own pride / To first let Jesus help us / And then we are there to help the other.

-You and I are a work in progress / In humility let us get out of the way and let God work.

-St. Paul said: In my weakness, I am strong.

“Honesty with God, others, and self, demands a huge amount of courage and humility / We ought to pray frequently for such courage and humility...”

Leading to contentment, healing, and Happiness in our own lives / Then may we take on the world. *And do so with joy / And then (while healing) we can laugh at our own imperfections.*

Amen

Father Vic Gournas