

The Fourth Degree of Humility

by St. Benedict of Nursia

The sermon emphasizes the importance of patience and perseverance in the face of trials as a manifestation of true humility.

Scripture: Psalm 27:14, Psalm 44:22, Psalm 66:10, Psalm 66:12, Matthew 10:22, Romans 8:36-37, 1 Corinthians 4:12, 2 Corinthians 11:26

Topics: "Christian Humility", "Persevering Faith"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia preaches about the fourth degree of humility, emphasizing the importance of holding fast to patience with a silent mind in obedience, even in the face of difficulties, contradictions, and injustices. He highlights the need to endure all challenges without growing weary or running away, citing Scriptures that encourage perseverance and waiting for the Lord. St. Benedict also stresses the faithful endurance of trials and adversities, trusting in divine recompense and conquering through God's love. He underscores the fulfillment of the Lord's command in facing injuries and adversities with patience, following the examples set by the Scriptures and Apostle Paul.

Transcript

The fourth degree of humility is that he hold fast to patience with a silent mind when in this obedience he meets with difficulties and contradictions and even any kind of injustice, enduring all without growing weary or running away. For the Scripture says, "The one who perseveres to the end, is the one who shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22); and again "Let your heart take courage, and wait for the Lord" (Ps. 26[27]:14)! And to show how those who are faithful ought to endure all things, however contrary, for the Lord, the Scripture says in the person of the suffering, "For Your sake we are put to death all the day long; we are considered as sheep marked for slaughter" (Ps. 43[44]:22; Rom. 8:36).

Then, secure in their hope of a divine recompense, they go on with joy to declare, "But in all these trials we conquer, through Him who has granted us His love" (Rom. 8:37). Again, in another place the Scripture says, "You have tested us, O God; You have tried us as silver is tried, by fire; You have brought us into a snare; You have laid afflictions on our back" (Ps. 65[66]:10-11). And to show that we ought to be under a Superior, it goes on to say, "You have set men over our heads" (Ps. 65[66]:12).

Moreover, by their patience those faithful ones fulfill the Lord's command in adversities and injuries: when struck on one cheek, they offer the other; when deprived of their tunic, they surrender also their cloak; when forced to go a mile, they go two; with the Apostle Paul they bear with false brethren (2 Cor. 11:26)

and bless those who curse them (1 Cor. 4:12).

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/the-fourth-degree-of-humility/>

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