

Humbling by hobbling is an interesting concept. Hobbling is an old technique popular with some horse trainers. To *hobble* a horse is to tie the front and back legs together, allowing enough rope to walk, but restricting it from running and kicking. A horse that is apt to run wild while you are in the saddle is a little problematic. When natural movement is restricted, the horse recognizes that someone else is in control. He is introduced to superior authority. A horse that is frequently hobbled begins to get the idea that he must respond to the desires of another. In this way, the hobbled horse becomes humbled. And a humble horse is a useful horse. Consider the following passage that describes God’s relationship with His people and His desire that they may become humble before Him.

*You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 8:2-3)*

Some of my most painful experiences in life have been humbling ones. More often than not, these are times when I have felt humiliated in being humbled. But it seems that God is not as concerned with my fractured feelings as much as forging my character. So at times when I needed to learn how to become more like Him, I was humbled. Finding myself hobbled, so to speak, I seem to be more receptive and responsive to God’s leadership. God will humble us when He wants to use us. Proudful human beings are prone to wander. When we learn that God is the master and He is in the lead, humbling ourselves is not a hard thing. We glorify God when we come to Him in humility and ask direction. When we seek His face and His will, He is glorified. Our passage today tells us that God loves us enough to humble us. Humility always precedes learning. Ponder these points...

**I. THE LORD LEADS US TO HUMBLE US.** It is God’s intention to lead us to a place where we recognize that we are not in control. God may lead us into places of helplessness so we are ready to follow Him. God can place us in barren desert to create a thirst for His living water.

**II. HUMILITY IS A PRELUDE TO A TEST OR THE RIGHT ANSWER TO ONE.**

When we find ourselves humbled by God, we should expect to be tested. And once tested, we realize that humility can be produced by the right response to the test. Since God is the Teacher, we should know that any learning must be subjected to evaluation. Life’s tests are the laboratory that proves God’s principles for living are true and relevant.

**III. HUMILITY TEACHES US THAT OUR NATURAL LIVES ARE DEPENDENT**

**UPON CONTACT WITH THE SUPERNATURAL.** Our faith in God grows when we see Him break into our world. Seeing our need for humility He is not hesitant to hobble us. When we learn that we are truly helpless without Him, and depend upon His boundaries for life, we can come to him as a dependent child, waiting on His command, leaning on His shoulder, and learning of His love. Are you in need of being humbled today? To humble yourself before God is honorable and more preferable than being hobbled!

**HUMILITY REVEALS THE CONTENT AND CONDITION OF THE HEART.** A little hobbling may be just what a healthy heart health requires.

**Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam**