



**Every Knee Shall Bow
And
Every Tongue Shall
Confess That**

Jesus Christ is Lord

A Teaching Outline

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Kneeling before the Lord.

Psalm 95:6

Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

A hardened heart is as useless as a hardened lump of clay or a hardened loaf of bread. Nothing can restore it and make it useful. The writer warns against hardening our hearts as Israel did in the wilderness by continuing to resist God's will.

They kneeled before the Lord and praised his loving kindness.

2 Chronicles 7:3

All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."

The Temple was dedicated to God, and Solomon and the people prepared to worship him. Dedication means setting apart a place, an object, or a person for an exclusive purpose. The purpose of this dedication was to set apart the Temple as a place to worship God. Today, our bodies are God's temple (2 Corinthians 6:16). Solomon's dedication of the Temple shows us that we should dedicate ourselves to carry out God's special purpose (Ephesians 1:11, 12).

They kneeled and worshipped the Lord.

2 Chronicles 29:29

Now at the completion of the burnt offerings, the king and all who were present with him bowed down and worshiped.

The blood sprinkled on the altar represented the innocence of the sacrificed animal taking the place of the person making the offering. The animal died so the sinner could live. This ritual looked forward to the day when Jesus Christ, God's perfect Son, would sacrifice his innocent life on the cross in order that the sinful and guilty human race might be spared the punishment it deserves (Hebrews 10:1-14)

Every tongue shall kneel and swear allegiance to God.

Isaiah 45:23

"I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from my mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.

Salvation is for all nations, not just the Israelites. Many times it seems as though Israel had an inside track on salvation. But God makes it clear that his people include *all* those who follow him. Israel was to be the means through which the whole world would come to know God. Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled Israel's role and gave all people the opportunity to follow God.

Every knee shall bow and confess to God.

Romans 14:11

For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Paul's point here is that the ritual of circumcision did not earn Abraham his acceptance by God; he had been blessed long before the circumcision ceremony was introduced. Abraham found favor with God by faith alone, before he was circumcised.

All who go down to the dust shall bow before him.

Psalm 22:29

All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep his soul alive.

Unborn generations are depending on our faithfulness today. As we teach our children about the Lord, so they will teach their children and their children's children.

If we fail to tell our children about the Lord, we may well be breaking the chain of God's influence in generations to come. We must view our children and all the young people we meet as God's future leaders.

If we are faithful in opportunities today, we may well be affecting the future.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.

Philippians 2:9-11

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

At the Last Judgment, even those who are condemned will recognize Jesus' authority and right to rule. People can choose now to commit their lives to Jesus as Lord or be forced to acknowledge him as Lord when he returns. Christ may return at any moment. Are you prepared to meet him?

A man ran and bowed before Jesus.

Mark 5:6

Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;

The demon screamed at Jesus, "Why are you interfering with me?" It was a shriek of fear, defense, and rebellion against God. No one today would like to admit to being demon possessed, but most of our society, like the demon, is screaming at God, the church, and Christian values,

Simon Peter knelt before Jesus.

Mark 10:17

As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

This man wanted to be sure he would get eternal life, so he asked what he could *do*. He said he'd never once broken any of the laws Jesus mentioned (10:19), and perhaps he had even kept the Pharisees' additional regulations as well.

But Jesus lovingly broke through the man's pride with a challenge that brought out his true motives: "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor." This challenge exposed the barrier that could keep this man out of the Kingdom: his love of money.

Money represented his pride of accomplishment and self-effort. Ironically, his attitude made him unable to keep the first commandment: to let nothing be more important than God (Exodus 20:3). He could not meet the one requirement Jesus gave—to turn his whole heart and life over to God. The man came to Jesus wondering what he could do; he left seeing what he was unable to do.

The captain of fifty bowed his knee before Elijah.

2 Kings 1:13

So he again sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. When the third captain of fifty went up, he came and bowed down on his knees before Elijah, and begged him and said to him, "O man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.

Notice how the third captain went to Elijah. Although the first two captains called Elijah "man of God," they were not being genuine—God was not in their hearts. The third captain also called him "man of God," but he humbly begged for mercy.

His attitude showed respect for God and his power and saved the lives of his men. Effective living begins with a right attitude toward God. Before religious words come to your mouth, make sure they are from your heart. Let respect, humility, and servanthood characterize your attitude toward God and others.

Daniel bowed before the Lord in prayer.

Daniel 6:10

Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

Daniel made no attempt to hide his daily prayer routine from his enemies in government, even though he knew he would be disobeying the new law. Hiding his daily prayers would have been futile because surely the conspirators would have caught him at something else during the month.

Also, hiding would have demonstrated that he was afraid of the other government officials. Daniel continued to pray because he could not look to the king for the guidance and strength that he needed during this difficult time. Only God could provide what he really needed.

A synagogue official bowed before Jesus.

Matthew 9:18

While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and." she will live.

Mark and Luke say this man's name was Jairus (Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41). As leader of the synagogue, Jairus was responsible for administration—looking after the building, supervising worship, running the school on weekdays, and finding rabbis to teach on the Sabbath.

I bow my knee before the father.

Ephesians 3:14

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

God's plan was not revealed to previous generations, not because God wanted to keep something from his people, but because he would reveal it to everyone in his perfect timing. God planned to have Jews and Gentiles comprise one body, the church.

It was known in the Old Testament that the Gentiles would receive salvation (Isaiah 49:6); but it was never revealed in the Old Testament that all Gentile and Jewish believers would become equal in the body of Christ. Yet this equality was accomplished when Jesus destroyed the "wall of hostility" and created "one new people" (2:14, 15).

Solomon bowed with his hands toward heaven.

1 Kings 8:54

When Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer and supplication to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven.

Solomon praised the Lord and prayed for the people. His prayer can be a pattern for our prayers.

He had five basic requests:

- (1) For God's presence (8:57);
- (2) For the desire to do God's will in everything (8:58);
- (3) For the desire and ability to obey God's decrees and commands (8:58);
- (4) For help with each day's needs (8:59);
- (5) For the spread of God's Kingdom to the entire world (8:60). These prayer requests are just as important today. When you pray for your church or family, you can make these same requests to God.

With garment torn, he fell to his knees before the Lord.

Ezra 9:5

And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord my God.

Ezra confessed the sins of his people. Although he had not sinned in the way his people had, he identified with their sins. With weeping, he expressed shame for sin, fear of the consequences, and desire that the people would come to their senses and repent. His prayer moved the people to tears (10:1).

Ezra demonstrated the need for a holy community around the rebuilt Temple. We need a holy community in our local churches, too. Even when we sin in the worst imaginable way, we can turn to God with prayers of repentance.

The leper bowed down before the Lord.

Matthew 8:2

And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Leprosy, like AIDS today, was a terrifying disease because there was no known cure. In Jesus' day, the Greek word for "leprosy" was used for a variety of similar diseases, and some forms were contagious. If a person contracted the contagious type, a priest declared him a leper and banished him from his home and city.

The leper was sent to live in a community with other lepers until he either got better or died. Yet when the leper begged Jesus to heal him, Jesus reached out and touched him, even though his skin was covered with the dread disease.

He bowed and asked the Lord to help him.

Matthew 15:25

But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

Jesus' words do not contradict the truth that God's message is for all people (Psalm 22:27; Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 28:19; Romans 15:9-12). After all, when Jesus said these words, he was in Gentile territory on a mission to Gentile people. He ministered to Gentiles on many other occasions also. Jesus was simply telling the woman that Jews were to have the first opportunity to accept him as the Messiah because God wanted them to

present the message of salvation to the rest of the world (see Genesis 12:3).

Jesus was not rejecting the Gentile woman. He may have wanted to test her faith, or he may have wanted to use the situation as another opportunity to teach that faith is available to all people.

A man in the crowd fell to his knees.

Matthew 17:14

When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying,

The disciples had been given the authority to do the healing, but they had not yet learned how to appropriate the power of God. Jesus' frustration is with the unbelieving and unresponsive generation. His disciples were merely a reflection of that attitude in this instance. Jesus' purpose was not to criticize the disciples but to encourage them to greater faith.

A mother bowed before Jesus.

Matthew 20:20

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.

The mother of James and John asked Jesus to give her sons special positions in his Kingdom.

Parents naturally want to see their children promoted and honored, but this desire is dangerous if it causes them to stand in the way of God's specific will for their children. God may have different work in mind for them—perhaps not as glamorous but just as important.

Thus, parents' desires for their children's advancement must be held in check as they pray that God's will be done in their children's lives.

Jesus bowed before the father in prayer.

Luke 22:41

And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray,

Was Jesus trying to get out of his mission? It is never wrong to express our true feelings to God. Jesus exposed his dread of the coming trials, but he also reaffirmed his commitment to do what God wanted.

The cup he spoke of meant the terrible agony he knew he would endure—not only the horror of the crucifixion but, even worse, the total separation from God that he would have to experience in order to die for the world's sins.

Stephen bowed before the Lord with a prayer of forgiveness.

Acts 7:60

Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

As Stephen died, he spoke words very similar to Jesus' words on the cross (Luke 23:34). For telling others the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection the members of the early church were persecuted. Sometimes, as in the case of Stephen, they were even put to death.

Christ had promised his followers that living for him would lead to trouble (see Luke 21:12-19). This is still true. If we boldly live out our faith, the light of our lives will expose the sinfulness of others. Our words of truth will pierce their souls. Some will be convicted and yield to the leading of the

Spirit. Others will become angry and hardened in their hatred of the truth. As Jesus said,

"They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the One who sent me" (John 15:21). We shouldn't be surprised or abandon our faith when we are persecuted.

Peter bowed to the father in prayer for Tabitha

Acts 9:40

But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Tabitha made an enormous impact on her community by "always doing kind things for others and helping the poor," by making coats and other garments (9:39).

When she died, the room was filled with mourners, very likely many of the people she had helped. And when she was brought back to life, the news raced through the town. God uses great preachers like Peter and Paul, but he also uses those who have gifts of kindness like Tabitha. Rather than wishing you had other gifts, make good use of the gifts God has given you.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print