

## Worthless Glory

If we said that there is a worthless glory, this means that there is also a "real glory" too. The Lord has said to the Pharisees: "How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?" (John 5: 44). There is a glory that descends to you from above if you believed, and there is another glory that comes to you from your money, political position or car. We say that it is a worthless glory because it is empty in the eyes of those that know God.

There are great things such as education that might become of this worthless glory if we bragged about it. You shouldn't feel proud about any virtue you have, the credit is not given to you, for if you recognized this virtue you should thank God. If a person felt some emptiness, he tries to fill it through shallow social life in order not to feel that he is cancelled from existence.

For women, this worthless glory could be strengthened through fancy food that they prepare and serve in parties. Wearing expensive clothes could also be a reason for pride although they were designed and sewed by someone else.

In front of this fact, how could a person differentiate between loving the worthless glory or divine glory? This is how this differentiation happens: If you live in order for people to see you or your car or castle, or if you wanted to please them, then you have fallen in the worthless glory. While, if you insisted to be seen from God, and to please him, then you are in the real glory.

The difference between people isn't that someone sells vegetables while the other is a giant factory owner, because the small seller could be arrogant and the owner could be humble. The question here is the following: Are you requesting God? Or your power, status and glorification from people? If you think that your value increases when you meet a great employee or a minister, then you don't believe in your dependent existence. This existence's value doesn't increase unless it was in a relation with the pure. He who gave you a noble creation, strengthened your faith and consoled you through spiritual comfort, has given you a treasure that surpasses all the treasures of the world. What descends to you from God is the only thing that has any value.

What changes in you if your resources decreased or your health weakened or you lost a social position? If you believed that nothing decreases from you if all of these things disappear, then you are on the right track asking God's satisfaction. However, if you become real sad when you lose something, this means that your request is this world.

An example of the worldly things that has become in control of some "high class" environments is *killing time through long evenings*. This reminds me of a dinner I was invited to in the United States. We started at half past six and finished one hour later; everyone said goodbye and went to his evening program. In Lebanon they say that dinner starts at nine; you come at the specified time but you have to wait for others an hour or more. The dinner might not start before half past ten or even later and doesn't end until midnight or later. This way, you lose a minimum of three hours, and you won't be able to read a book after this time or even sleep comfortably. All of this is worthless glory.

The opposite of this is living simply in virtue. In this living you don't claim that you know everything and don't search in what you don't understand and especially you don't repeat what you read in the newspaper. For if you didn't know something, silence is better; and if you did know a lot, your listeners might not be able to understand so do not spread your knowledge because this would also be worthless glory. In all cases, silence saves you from being mistaken.

However, you can't achieve this calm behavior unless you were humble in a way that makes you feel that you are nothing. If you recognized your gifts, give the credit to God. Then, God's glory will descend on you and you'll become a divine creature without knowing it.

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