

Above All Things Let Him Have Humility

by St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict emphasizes the paramount importance of humility in service and community life.

Topics: "Christian Humility", "Community Harmony"

Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of humility and the power of a good word over material gifts, as stated in Ecclesiastes 18:17. He instructs his followers to faithfully carry out their assigned duties without arrogance or disobedience, citing the consequences of causing others to stumble in Matthew 18:6. St. Benedict advises seeking assistance when needed to fulfill responsibilities peacefully and efficiently. He stresses the significance of proper timing in fulfilling tasks and making requests to maintain harmony and peace within the community.

Transcript

Above all things let him have humility; and if he has nothing else to give let him give a good word in answer for it is written, "A good word is above the best gift" (Eccles. 18:17). Let him have under his care all that the Abbot has assigned to him, but not presume to deal with what he has forbidden him. Let him give the brethren their appointed allowance of food without any arrogance or delay, that they may not be scandalized, mindful of the Word of God as to what he deserves "who shall scandalize one of the little ones" (Matt 18:6).

If the community is a large one, let helpers be given him, that by their assistance he may fulfill with a quiet mind the office committed to him.

The proper times should be observed in giving the things that have to be given and asking for the things that have to be asked for, that no one may be troubled or vexed in the house of God.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/above-all-things-let-him-have-humility/>

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