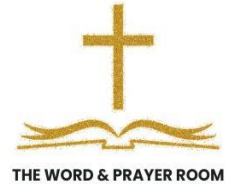


# Lay Down Your Crown



## Day 4: The Power of Letting Go

Obedience may cost you the spotlight, but it will secure your destiny.

### Key Scripture: James 4 : 10 (NIV)

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

### The Crown - What It Represents in This Story

The crown of humility doesn't glitter; it glows. It's often invisible to others, but visible to Heaven. It's the crown you wear when you choose to obey God in secret - when you lay down your need to be seen, heard, or credited. In the Kingdom, humility isn't weakness - it's spiritual authority under control. It's the decision to obey when logic says resist, and to serve when pride says, “You've earned more than this.” This is the story of how God asked me to surrender a platform I had worked hard to achieve, and how that surrender unlocked a higher kind of promotion.



### My Personal Story – The Power of Letting Go

Over 20 years ago, while working in a global organisation with over 180,000 employees, I discovered just how intense the culture was. Everyone was competing for visibility. Every project, every meeting, every name-drop mattered. It was corporate survival - and competition was fierce. But I learnt something life-changing: when God has a plan for your life, no one can stop it. Within five years, I had risen to Senior Manager, earning a six-figure salary and a seat in rooms few ever entered. I often reflected on the verse, “***Your gift will make room for you and bring you before great men.***” (Proverbs 18 : 16)

Then something unexpected happened. Word spread through my department that I was attending board-level meetings - the kind of high-profile sessions that even directors longed to be invited to. The atmosphere shifted. Whispers started. Some colleagues began to distance themselves; others watched me with quiet resentment. Among them was my line manager, who had grown increasingly unkind. Jealousy had made her sharp and unpredictable. In front of executives, she was charming; behind the scenes, she was cutting.

***Then came the email that changed everything...***

The Senior HR Director asked for an update on the strategic programme I was leading and copied both me and my manager, asking, “Who will deliver the presentation to the Board?” Silence followed. We all knew I was the only one who could deliver it. My manager didn’t have the depth of knowledge - she could only do it if I empowered her. There were about four weeks between that email and the day the report was due. During that time, my manager and I exchanged polite smiles, scheduled meetings, and danced around the elephant in the room. We both knew what was hanging in the air, but neither of us addressed it. The silence was heavy - filled with tension, pride, and unspoken awareness. But as I worked late into the night many times preparing the report, I began to sense God doing something in my spirit.

On the day the report was due to be submitted, I sat at my desk shaping an email to send the final draft. I deliberately left out who would deliver it. It was professional, precise, and politically safe. Then, just as I was about to press send, the Holy Spirit interrupted me. “Give the report to your manager to deliver.” I froze. Surely, I’d misheard. He couldn’t mean her. Not the woman who had made my life difficult. But the voice came again - clear, calm, and firm. “Give her the work, and give her your knowledge. Coach her to deliver it well.”

I sat with my finger hovering over the send button, wrestling with obedience and justice. I knew what would happen - she would take credit for my work, name-drop around the office, and boast about her newfound access. But I also knew the voice of God when I heard it. Before disobedience could reason its way in, I changed the email to say, “My line manager will present the update. I will hand everything over to her.” Moments later, the HR Director replied privately with a row of question marks. He knew this was unusual. And then, minutes later, my line manager appeared at my desk, wide-eyed. “Are you sure?” she asked, stunned. “Yes,” I said - and I meant it. I felt an overwhelming peace.

Over the next two weeks, I met with her several times, handing over the material and coaching her - not just on content, but on tone, boardroom etiquette, and how to anticipate questions. At first, I battled mixed feelings as she paraded around the office telling everyone she had been invited to present. But the more I obeyed God’s instruction, the lighter my spirit became. Something unexpected happened - I moved from obedience under pressure to obedience in joy. I genuinely wanted her to succeed. I poured into her everything I knew.

Two things followed: 1) She delivered an excellent presentation. I heard glowing feedback about her confidence and clarity; and 2) when the next round of

redundancies came 2 years later, she covered me completely. My name wasn't even on the list – in fact, I was promoted. In the world's eyes, I had given something away. In Heaven's eyes, I had sown something eternal.



### So, What Did I Learn From This?

I learned that laying down your crown means surrendering what's rightfully yours to make room for what's divinely better. Obedience is the ultimate test of trust. It means believing that God can promote you better than people ever could. Humility doesn't erase influence - it refines it. When I handed over that report, I wasn't losing visibility; I was shifting from being seen by people to being approved by God.



The act of surrender broke something in me - the subtle pride that wants to be acknowledged for obedience. But it also built something stronger - a quiet confidence that God sees every unseen seed sown in faith. When I laid down my crown, I discovered that obedience is the key that opens doors pride will never reach. When we humble ourselves, we don't shrink - we make room for God's timing to unfold. We stop striving to be remembered and start trusting to be rewarded.



### Why We Struggle to Lay It Down

Because obedience feels like losing control. We want to manage the outcome - to obey on our terms, with guarantees of recognition. But God rarely shows us the reward before the surrender. We struggle because our flesh equates humility with humiliation. But in God's Kingdom, humility is the pathway to elevation.



### Scripture Focus: 1 Peter 5 : 6 (NIV)

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."

- **"Humble yourselves..."** True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. It's laying down the need to control the narrative.
- **"...before the Lord..."** Humility begins in private. It's not for show; it's for surrender. It's about bowing before God before the world ever sees the outcome.
- **"...and He will lift you up."** God doesn't overlook hidden obedience. When you obey in secret, He rewards you in ways no title or spotlight ever could.



## Declarations

- I choose obedience over recognition.
- I trust God to promote me in His timing and His way.
- My humility is not weakness - it's divine strategy.
- I lay down my crown of visibility and wear the invisible crown of obedience.



## Prayer

Lord, thank You for teaching me that obedience is never wasted. When I'm tempted to fight for credit or visibility, remind me that You see every unseen act of faithfulness. Help me to obey without needing applause and to trust Your timing when mine feels overdue. Let my humility be strength, my silence be worship, and my surrender be the stage for Your glory. Today, I lay down my crown - the need to be seen - and I choose obedience over opportunity. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## Key Takeaway

Obedience may feel like surrender, but in the Kingdom, it's strategy. When you lay down your crown, you don't lose position - you gain divine protection. And when God lifts you up, no one can pull you down.



Worship Song: "[Refiner](#)" - Maverick City Music. "I wanna be tried by fire, purified. You take whatever You desire - Lord, here's my life."