Get Over Your Self!

Phil. 2:5-11 / Phil 2:3

11/13/22

I was thinking, as I prepared this morning’s message… you guys are really blessed to be at this church. And the more I thought about it, the more I realized, that you guys are TRULY blessed to have me as your pastor. Honestly! There aravitaaritae a lot of pastors out there that are corrupt - taking people’s money, sleeping with people’s wives. I am a man of integrity, honesty and HUMILTY – and I doubt you would find a better pastor for this church anywhere.

I know what you are thinking… you are thinking that I am thinking about myself too much. Well, I thought you would think that, so I thought about why I could say what I just said…

I mean, how many pastors do YOU know who can, sing, prepare inspiring messages (like this one), run the sound system & the media, fix some things around the church, maintain the church app, ensure the church calendar is updated, visit people, reach out to those who we’ve missed, design the church web site and maintain it, counsel people, cast vision and be there for his wife, kids, and grandkids too? Man, I’m good! I might even say that I am the reason people come to church and watch online! It’s possible that without me there would BE no church… [can I get an “Amen”?- no? – good!] :)

Ever met someone who felt they were “God’s gift to the world?”.

* There was a guy who said to his friend once, “The woman who is lucky enough to marry me…” The friend stopped him right there and told him he better find a nice car to fall in love with because he will never find a woman who will put up with that!

Basically, what we probably want to say to people like that is, “Get Over Yourself!” Wouldn’t it feel great to be able to say that to some people?

The problem I run into is that if I said that to other people, it would probably come back on me sooner or later. Actually, I think all of us probably need to “get over ourselves” in some way or another.

* Philippians 2:3 - *Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. (NLT)*

“Attitude is everything”. It’s one thing to be humbly confident and another to be annoyingly prideful. Let’s read a passage about attitude…

* Philippians 2:5-11 - *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. 9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NLT) (*“made himself nothing” in the NASB reads, “emptied himself”)

I’ve asked this question many times, but what is a Christian? A Christian is a person who believes in, follows, and **imitates Jesus Christ**.

So, as we near Thanksgiving, a time of to be thankful & remember all the blessings we have, the very most thing we should be thankful for and remember is the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made for you and me! I think we should find out what it means to really live the way Jesus did..

Now, I HIGHLY doubt that ANYONE in this room will be beaten, scourged, mocked, spit upon and killed like Jesus was. SO, we will bypass scourging lessons today, but how can we be more like Jesus? One way is to get an attitude adjustment… adjust our thinking to be in line with what & how Jesus would think.

This morning we are going to look at this passage and find ways that we can adjust our attitude to line them up with the attitude Jesus had. After all, he is the greatest person who ever lived, the greatest hero, greatest role model – he is our example, He is God. Could you ask for a better pattern to follow?

How many of you wish that your spouse, friends, children, acted more like Jesus? Well, they probably think the same of you! So, let’s adjust our attitudes together and see how to “get over ourselves.

It’s said that “A man wrapped up in himself makes a pretty small package” So how do you “empty” yourself? How do you get over yourself? Look at life through a telescope, not a microscope…When you look at life through a microscope, everything else is smaller than you. YOU are the biggest object, and YOU have the illusion that you are in control.

When you look at life through a telescope, you are looking at something MUCH BIGGER than you are, and you realize that you are small, that you are NOT in control.

If I am not truly in control of my life {and I am not} then I must be willing to submit myself to a greater power **that IS in control**. That power is not a non-descript energy source, or some cosmic light source, it is the God who made all of creation, including you and me.

* Isaiah 45:9-12 - *“What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’ 10 How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father, ‘Why was I born?’ or if it said to its mother, ‘Why did you make me this way?’ 11 This is what the Lord says— the Holy One of Israel and your Creator: “Do you question what I do for my children? Do you give me orders about the work of my hands? 12 I am the one who made the earth and created people to live on it. With my hands I stretched out the heavens. All the stars are at my command.”*

I need to recognize and resign that GOD is in control – he has the ability to reward us for things done for Him, and the power to discipline us for the wrong things that we do. He has the power to give life and to take life away.

* We can’t even control the prices of gasoline, what makes us think that we can control our lives?
* We can’t control whether it will snow or be sunny, so why do we think we can control our future?

To empty ourselves is to rid ourselves of the notion that we are in control, that we do not need God. It is a very small universe of which you are the center. God knows our past, our present and our future and He is in control.

Not only is this humbling, but it is empowering! We have the God of the universe on our side. The God who keeps all things going, who is infinitely larger than we are, is the God who wants to be our leader, guide, father, and everything in this life! Christian writer, Corrie Ten Boom *“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”*

* James 4:13-16 says this:

*13 Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. 15 What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.*

Part of being empty of self it to give up my bragging rights. I am only good, I am only valuable because of my relationship with God, - and that is because of HIS love, not anything I have done to earn it…

* In New York, the AP news reported a man who paid $5 for a 19th-century painting he bought at a garage sale and sold it to a museum for $1 million! The unidentified 29-year-old actor found Joseph Decker’s "Ripening Pears" wrapped in a blanket at a Los Angeles garage sale three years ago, the report said. The woman who sold him the painting said it had been sitting in her garage for more than 60 years. Decker painted it around 1884 or 1885. The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., bought the painting in February for $1 million, The painting hung on the man’s kitchen wall for two years before he decided to do an Internet search on Decker. Once he realized Decker’s fame, the man e-mailed a digital photo of the picture to the Manhattan-based Richard York Gallery, which specializes in 19th- and 20th-century American art. "I looked at the e-mail, and I said, ’It’s too good to be true,’" said the executive vice president of the gallery.

The painting was not valuable because of where it was located (it was in a garage). It was not valuable because of who owned it (a 29-year-old actor). It was valuable because of its creator. That is true with you and me. It is NOT who we are, nor where we live, nor who our parents are, our job or education, money in the bank, how many friends we have that make us valuable – it is our Creator, and his work in our lives.

* American theologian, Tryon Edwards is quoted as saying *"True humility is not an abject, groveling, self-despising spirit; it is but a right estimate of ourselves as God sees us."*

When we give over control of our lives to God, He sees us as very valuable. Valuable enough to sacrifice his Son, Jesus for – to die for. He loves us that much. THAT is where your value comes from.

* You might be here today, and you might not feel very loved (for whatever reason). God loves you. You are valuable.
* You might not feel like your life is worth a lot – it is worth more than you can imagine (it cost Jesus his life to give you yours).

1 Peter 5:6 - Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you.

As you and I do this, and as we become people of true humility and “Get Over Ourselves”, we can expect the following:

* **Our prayers will be heard**

2 Chronicles 33:12-13 - *12 But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the Lord his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. 13 And when he prayed, the Lord listened to him and was moved by his request. So, the Lord brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the Lord alone is God!*

* **Honor will be given from God**

James 4:10 - *When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor*.

* **God will cause us to prosper**

Proverbs 22:4 - *True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life.*

Attitude IS everything – Some of us are stuck on a hamster’s wheel and it seems we keep going through the same issues, same dramas, and same problems...Truth is it might because you have the wrong attitude about everything...You think you are the center of everything, or think you have to be the center of everything!

John the Baptist was well known, baptizing everyone & calling out for repentance and he had many followers, some who even thought that he was the Messiah. But he was very quick to keep that pride in check and ensure He was not but was only here to “prepare the way” for Him...The One that he told everyone he wasn’t even “worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.” Nowhere in scripture do you see John becoming about himself and his accomplishments...He was humble in knowing who he was. He would go to say the following in numerous translations in John 3:30.

* New International Version:
“He must become greater; I must become less.”
* New Living Translation:
“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.”
* English Standard Version:
“He must increase, but I must decrease.”
* New King James Version:
“He must increase, but I *must* decrease.
* Good News Translation:
* “He must become more important while I become less important."

This statement should become what we think and tell ourselves every morning...We’ve assumed the quote since January of this year, “Less of ME and more of Him”. But if we were to look at our hearts and life today, almost a year from when we made this commitment, are we less of our selves than we were even then? Are we sure we’re living this way?

* Are we wanting less of our wants & desires and cares, and focusing on God’s desires for our lives?
* Are we living humble lives and understanding who we are in the big picture. YOU are valuable, but not more than anyone else.
* Are we putting others needs over ours?
* Are we watching how we talk to someone as if we’re better and their lesser or as if we know everything about a situation that maybe we don’t?

Remember there’s one path to “Draw” to God.

* James 4:7-8a

*7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you...*

So, what attitude do YOU have. Prideful or Humbleness? Truth is we all have work to do to “Get over ourselves” & to get under Gods sovereignty, so that we can start living a life that is bigger than we are and experience the blessings of God we never thought possible.... will you allow the Holy Spirit to lessen you so Jesus can be more in your heart and life today? I encourage you to, so that you can find your REAL value in the eyes of the God who created you and has so much more in store for you!