

For those of you who weren't with us last week, we looked at the 4 essentials of humility. We learned that to be humble was to 1. REFRAIN from causing others to stumble... 2. being READY to forgive... 3. Recognizing NEED.. and 4. Returning honour to whom honour is due...

Humility is something that WE MUST have... In fact, you could say that it the most important virtue... BECAUSE, as Christians, we can literally have EVERYTHING else... giftedness.. charisma, determination, DISCIPLINE, EVEN FAITHFULNESS... but if we do not have humility, we will be competing with Jesus for the spotlight and God will be opposed to us...

BUT it doesn't come naturally. Humility sure as heck doesn't come naturally to us....Its perhaps the most UNNATURAL thing for us that live in what social commentators call a ENTITLEMENT culture....

Collectively, Western society has bought into this strange notion that we somehow DESERVE what we WANT- that we ARE ENTITLED TO OR ... HAVE A RIGHT - to OWN something just because we want it.

Its everywhere around us. But we see this most clearly in the consumer market. I feel ENTITLED to OWN something I WANT , even though I clearly cannot AFFORD it and so... I take out my credit card... and VOILA. Its mine.

And its killing us. NOT just because of personal and national DEBT...but because its killing CHARACTER... ESPECIALLY HUMILITY... that quality which puts the needs of others above our own...

A. O. Scott, writing for the New York Times - caused quite a stir back in the September of 2014 when he wrote this article... entitled the Death of Adulthood in American Culture - in which he linked the death of adulthood to the death of culture... and how an ENTITLEMENT mentality was fueling this process

Similary, back in 2012, Nicholas Eberstadt, writing for the Wall Street Journal, published a very informing article which showed the correlation between the entitlement culture - in this case, specifically to the civilian abuse of government benefits/funding ... and the DEATH of character...

THIS - "You OWE ME... OR I DESERVE THIS..." attitude - is killing us...

And from a Christian worldview, we ought to be very concerned... because ENTITLEMENT is the complete opposite of HUMILITY...

So this Easter Sunday... I want to work through a text with you... that has been EXTREMELY helpful for me in both forming humility within and FIGHTING this culture of entitlement without.

Would you turn with me in your Bibles to Philippians 2:3-11... And we are going to be looking at this text in 3 parts....

first.. we are going to look at the essence of HUMILITY....

2. we are going to look at the EXAMPLE of humility..

and 3. we are going to end by looking at the END .. or END GOAL of humility.

So first, lets look at the ESSENCE of humility...

And its simple.

Starting in verse 3. DO nothing from selfish ambition of conceit, but in HUMILITY count others more significant than yourselves.... Selfish and conceited people think they are better than everyone else. A humble person COUNTS... COUNTS - it doesn't matter if they ARE better than you or

not... COUNTS others...to be more significant. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others....

Thats the essence of humility. COUNTING others MORE significant than yourself... And looking after others interests... not just your own.... THIS is the complete opposite of the entitlement culture we live in that SAYS - I DESERVE THIS... OR THE WORLD OWES ME... ME ME ME...

BY the way... theres something I saw in this text... that when I got it.. it BLEW MY MIND... Look with me ... when it writes... that we are to count others MORE SIGNIFICANT than ourselves.. WHO is that OTHERS talking about??? I used to think that that was talking about Christians ... COUNT other Christians better than yourself.... that makes sense... and I can kind of do that...I mean, their nice.... BUT during my internship 2 years ago, I learned that this OTHERS - it doesn't refer to Christians... its talking about EVERYONE. Even the people that you don't particularly get along with.... We are to COUNT EVERYONE MORE significant than ourselves.

We talked briefly about Mother Teresa last week.. the most decorated and celebrated woman who ever lived... 18 INTERNATIONAL awards... but remember - what truly made her SHINE was her HUMILITY!

Where DOES THAT COME FROM? How can we.. like Mother Teresa... COUNT OTHERS more significant than ourselves? Verse 5 and following gives us the answer...it is MIND BLOWING what Paul is saying here... This is where Mother Teresa went.. and this is where EVERYONE must go if they want to learn TRUE humility.

5 Have this mind, that is a humble mind, among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus... 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in

human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Here is the **EXAMPLE** of humility we must follow. The Life and death of Jesus Christ.... **THE GOSPEL PERFECTLY MODELS** that “counting others better than yourself” humility. **HOW?** Because Jesus... when He died on the cross for our sins... **IF NOTHING ELSE, HE WAS COUNTING OTHERS... THAT IS EVERYONE... MORE SIGNificant** than Himself! Here is the Son of God.... **JESUS** - who **DESERVED** equality with God... He was **ENTITLED TO IT**... but instead, he humbled himself... took on the form of a servant... and **DIED** on the **CROSS** for our sins...

Throughout history, we read of many men trying to become gods... but only One God ever became man... that is, Jesus Christ.

The reason why we can walk through life considering others more significant than ourselves and think of ways to **SERVE** others rather than be **SERVED**... **IS BECAUSE JESUS DID THAT FOR US. HE** loved us and died for us and forgave us and accepted and made us heirs of the world **WHILE WE WERE YET ENEMIES...He OWED US NOTHING! WE WERE REBELS! All that we DESERVED was HELL!**

UNTIL WE GET THAT - WE DESERVED PUNISHMENT BUT through the death and resurrection of Christ, **WE GOT GRACE** Until we get that... we will **LIVE** life with a **ENTITLEMENT** mentality.

That is where our humility comes from. We are **OVERWHELMED** by **THAT! WE** are stunned into **HUMILITY!** Amazing love- how **CAN IT BE**, that you **MY KING** would **DIE** for me? In other words... **TRUE** humility cannot be faked.. it is a **REFLEX** of the **SOUL** as we behold, with eyes of faith... the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ as He bears the sins of the world upon the cross....

Ok.. so we know what the essence of humility is... and what the example of humility is... BUT WHY. Why must we be humble? In other words, what is the END- GOAL of humility?

Verse 9. THEREFORE... whenever we read therefore, we must ask.... What is the THEREFORE there for? And in this case it is giving us the answer to WHY we ought to be humble. namely, GLORY!

THEREFORE - God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE END of Jesus' humility was His exaltation. In the same way, THE END of OUR HUMILITY is OUR EXALTATION! The Bible often talks about how if we suffer with Him, we will also be glorified with Him... how if we CARRY our crosses with JESUS, we will also be crowned WITH Jesus...

So its coming! GLORY praise and HONOUR is COMING!

People ask me sometimes.. why I live the way I do. In particular, why I'm so generous with my money to people who I know probably won't or CANNOT repay me...

And its because of this... I'm going to GET the kingdom! Glory and honour ... ITS COMING to me.. and its only a matter of time... WHY are Christians humble? Because ultimately, OUR humility will RESULT IN PRAISE and HONOUR and GLORY in the coming age.

But at the end of the day... as we looked at last week ... humble people return honour to whom honour is due...

Look with me again at Revelations 4:10...we are going to read some apocalyptic literature together...

It writes.. the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power! And in chapter 5, it goes on to say...

I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And then... one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

And looking up... I expected to see A majestic FIERCE LION... BUT in its place... BEHOLD,... a SLAUGHTERED LAMB!

AND HE was WORTHY to open the SCROLL of history...

We tend to get caught up in the small details when we read the book of Revelations.. but let me lay it out for you... The CROWNS represent the glory and honour and praise the saints will RECEIVE... But what do they do with them? They cast them at the feet of the King of KINGS!!! They returned honour to whom ALL honour is due.. AND get this! What makes JESUS WORTHY OF such ETERNAL EXALTATION is NOT that He is the Lion of Judah that conquers His foes...

BUT that HE is the LAMB who DIED on the cross for our sins...

"Worthy IS THE LAMB to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation!

GHANDI - GHANDI of all people... GOT THIS. Believe it or not, even Ghandi read the Bible and when He got to the passage I just read you guys... HE GOT IT! HE saw that there was more HONOUR and POWER in humility than in CONQUERING. And so, starting in the 1930s, Ghandi would go on to lead the nation in non-violent PROTESTS... through the course of which over 100 thousand protestors were arrested.. tens of thousands beaten and shot at... but they continued... silently.. humbly.. never fighting back.. and it came to the point where British soldiers could no longer stomach pointing their guns at these humble protestors.. Eventually these protests delivered a decisive blow against British imperial occupation in India.

So you see.. humility is POWERFUL. Without it, it will ultimately lead to the decay of CHARACTER and the death of culture... But WITH IT, you can breathe new life to an entire nation...

So imagine what your humble service can do to others around you.. When you treat you co worker to a cup of coffee.. when you don't FIGHT back with someone who calls you names... when you offer to help someone who is struggling in class.. when you are HUMBLE towards another person... it not only can turn someone's day right side up but it can change the entire complexion of their lives...

I'll end by pointing us to a beautiful promise that I hope will motivate us to be humble... And then we will transition to the Lord's Supper.

1 Peter 5:3 writes... Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another.... FOR - HERE is the REASON why we ought to clothe ourselves with HUMILITY.... FOR ... "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

If you are proud, God will oppose you. But if you are humble... He will give you His grace...

And let me give you ONE picture of what that grace is going to look like...
Luke 12:37 - Truly, I say to you, the master will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

Be humble... Because GRACE IS COMING!!! And Our KING will seat us at His table and SERVE US...

And we get to have a small taste of that RIGHT NOW... as we observe the Lord's Supper together.

Can the worship team come up at this time and softly play in the background?

While they get ready, let me just quickly explain what the Lord's Supper is for those of you who have never heard of it before.. Its what Christians do in obedience to God's Word... We believe that God has provided a means for us to receive grace... and its simple.

A piece of bread that does not fill and a cup of drink that does not satisfy- we call it SUPPER. because we are drawing attention to what they signify -

namely, the Body and Blood of Jesus that was given for us... to satisfy our eternal hunger and thirst by reconciling us to God...

Let me read for you from Luke chapter 22:

And when the hour came, he, that is Jesus, reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

And when he comes... right now its me.. and Jae and Steve who are going to minister the meal... but when Jesus comes.. He Himself will invite you to the table - to a FEAST He Himself has prepared.. and He will serve you... I hope to see all of you there at God's table...

At this time, if you confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.. I welcome you to come up as you are ready and share the Lord's Supper together. And I ask that you would take the bread and cup back with you to your seats and prayerfully wait.. until everyone has received their share so that we can observe this meal corporately.

And as you come, to receive the bread and the cup, do come with open hearts and open hands... to receive the Lord's grace humbly...

Come as you are ready.