

Sermon Title: Humility

Sermon Series: Your Confidence

Scripture: Numbers 12:1-16

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



EGO

What do we do with our EGO?

Numbers 12:1-2 ESV

12 Miriam and Aaron **spoke against** Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. 2 And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it.

_____ is the exterior motive for their doubting Moses.

Improper _____ is the interior motive for their doubting Moses.

Numbers 12:2 ESV

2 And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it.

“Improper EGO stands for Edging God Out.”

—Ken Blanchard – Lead Like Jesus

We respond with a belittling attitude because our EGO has been hit.

The improper “confident” EGO masks an interior _____.

One of the greatest hits to your confidence comes from the lack of belief of those closest to you.

Numbers 12:3 ESV

3 Now the man Moses was **very meek**, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

Psalm 37:11 ESV

11 But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Matthew 5:5 ESV

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

Instead of displaying improper EGO — Edging God Out

Display proper EGO — _____ God Only – Ken Blanchard

Humility isn't thinking poorly of yourself; it's thinking honestly about God and yourself.

Romans 12:3 ESV

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Psalm 147:6 ESV

6 The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

James 4:10 ESV

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Numbers 12:4-9 ESV

4 And suddenly the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out. 5 And the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at

the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" 9 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed.

Numbers 12:10-12 ESV

10 When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb."

Numbers 12:13-15 ESV

13 And Moses cried to the Lord, "O God, please heal her—please." 14 But the Lord said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again." 15 So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.

Our _____ grows when we _____ God Only

"When we take the talents God has given us to glorify Him with, and instead glorify ourselves, we are blaspheming."

—Matt Chandler

Hebrews 4:16 ESV

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The more you seek Jesus, the more honestly you can see yourself and give credit to God.

Discussion Questions – June 16, 2024 - Your Confidence | How honest am I about myself? Your Humility

Getting to know you Questions:

1. When you think of a humble person, what characteristics come to mind? Do you find a humble person to be easier to get along with? Why or why not?

2. In our society, do you think humility is a rare trait? Why or why not?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Numbers 12:1-16

12 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. 2 And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. 3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. 4 And suddenly the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out. 5 And the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” 9 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed.

10 When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother’s womb.” 13 And Moses cried to the Lord, “O God, please heal her—please.” 14 But the Lord said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.” 15 So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again. 16 After that the people set out from Hazeroth, and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

3. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

5. In numbers, what was the excuse for Miriam's and Aaron's criticism of Moses (Num. 12:1)? What were they really concerned about (Num. 12:2)? How does insecurity play a part in unfair criticism?

6. In Numbers, Moses receives criticism from his family. Ian commented that "One of the greatest hits to your confidence comes from the lack of belief of those closest to you." How have you seen this play out in real life?

7. In his book, Lead Like Jesus, Ken Blanchard notes that improper EGO is when one "Edges God Out" of the credit and guidance of their life. How can thinking this way lead to a false sense of confidence or insecurity?

8. Blanchard notes that a proper EGO is Exalting God Only. What are some ways Moses' actions exalt God (Numbers 12:3, 13)?

9. Read Psalm 147:6 & James 4:10. Why do we seek to exalt ourselves, instead of humbling ourselves and letting God exalt us in his time?

For Extra Study, Read the following passage: Philippians 3:3-12.

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

10. From the passage, what does Paul avoid putting his confidence in? How might humility help him with that?

11. In Verse 12, what does Paul's confidence in Christ's work enable him to do?

12. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

13. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

14. We can all struggle with improper EGO. Which of these statements relate most to your life?

I always feel I'm right or need to be right

I cannot say I'm sorry or admit that I am wrong

I hate when a weakness of mine is exposed and do whatever I can to cover it up

I am demanding, but give the excuse that I have high standards

I will use others so that my task can be accomplished

15. Why do you struggle with that area?

16. Humility, then, is not thinking poorly about yourself, but thinking accurately about yourself and God.

17. What gifts has God given to you?

18. Have you ever tried to Exalt yourself with those gifts? How?

19. How could you Exalt God with those gifts?

20. This week, how could you seek Christ and get a better picture of who he is? How would this help your humility and confidence?

21. How can this group pray for each other?