

Jesus Teaches on Greatness

September 1, 2024

Introduction:

Text: Mark 9:30-37, 10:35-45

Understand God's perspective on **PRIDE**: It is not that God merely doesn't help the proud — God lines Himself up in _____ against them.

Without humility there can be no true abiding in God's presence or experience of His favor and the power of His spirit. Without it there can be no abiding faith or love or joy or strength. — Humility by Andrew Murray

Why does God hate PRIDE?

- Pride blinds the eye to reality.
- Pride quickly replaces reality with a distortion (or lie).
- Pride lifts one's heart against God.
- Pride leads defiant people... who need God's help...to push Him away.

Big Idea: Jesus died serving me so that I would understand humility and _____ to _____ others.

#1- Failure to understand the mission of Jesus creates _____ in the life of a disciple (30-32)

- _____ will lead you to a very dangerous place.

#2-Greatness is not _____ and gained (33-34)

- The disciple's argument
- Three False Patterns of Greatness
 - _____ – people know me therefore I am GREAT
 - Power – I gain authority, therefore I am GREAT
 - Luxury – I have been given comfort, therefore, I am GREAT
- The disturbing and potentially disastrous development Jesus MUST DEAL with:
 - The danger here is that pride ruins unity by destroying relationships.
 - Pride, being self-focused, is indifferent to others. It is ultimately judgmental and critical, and therefore divisive.
 - Pride is the most common destroyer both of relationships and of churches. (John MacArthur)

#3-Greatness does not come through self-declaration but rather _____ is _____ and the secret of greatness (humility) is discovered (35-37)

- Jesus redefined greatness
 - _____ is a twisted view of self.
 - _____ is viewing ourselves as God sees us!
- A child became the illustration of how to become "great"
 - The Image of a Child destroys Pride...**
 - ...by forcing us to recognize that our standing before God is never by our own achievements
 - ...by forcing us to accept that there is nothing we can do

Truth in Action: Tripping toward humility

- Learning true humility will take more than a new definition--**IT WILL TAKE THE DEATH OF SELF**
- Create space to ponder the death of Jesus on the cross--**THINK JESUS LIVED TO SERVE**
- Begin your day “needy” for God— **“GOD, MAKE ME DESPERATE FOR YOU”**
- Verbalize gratitude— **“Thank you God for _____”**
- Practice spiritual disciplines--**Read the BIBLE, Have a conversation with God (PRAY!!!)**

CONNECT CARD NEXT STEP:

#1- Look for the residue of pride in your life. Ask God to make you a servant!

#2-How can we help you and pray for you?

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: If you had been invited to one of the private sessions Jesus had with the disciples, what question(s) would you ask Him?

1. As Jesus taught the disciples about His upcoming death they really didn’t understand (read Mark 9:30-32). What made it hard for them to understand it?

2. The disciples began arguing about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (read Mark 9:33-34 and Luke 9:46). How come it is so easy for us to turn to our selfish desires and ambitions? When have you seen the selfish behavior of people hinder where God was working?

3. Jesus used a child to teach a lesson on humility (read Mark 9:35-37). Why do we so often try to avoid being as vulnerable as a little child? How come we have a hard time trusting that God will provide all our needs (read Proverbs 3:5-6)?

4. For Jesus to embrace the little child and talk about welcoming children in His name is a big deal. Do you find yourself viewing children as a blessing or a burden? Where is God asking you to invest in the life of a younger believer?

Closing Prayer: Jesus help me find my significance in you not in myself. Make me humble like yourself. Amen.

Resources: Humility by Andrew Murray, Humility: True Greatness by C.J. Mahaney, G. Campbell Morgan, The Gospel of Mark; R. C. Sproul, The Gospel of Mark; Tim Keller, Christ the King; Life Application Bible Commentary, Mark; Jason Meyer, Mark for You; Gaebelien (Ed.), The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Mark