

Ready our Hearts and our Posture

Luke 22:24-34

- Self-centeredness (pride) is the oldest (original) sin. Our motives and actions, if allowed to simmer long enough, will reveal our basic sinful behavior.

The great lie — spoken over humanity.

Genesis 3:5 “No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

“my way is better than God’s.”

What are the three most popular forms of selfishness (pride)?

Conceit (vanity), Stubbornness, and Exclusion

1. **Conceit**

The pre-occupation with how you are viewed in front of a watching world (social media).

2. **Stubbornness**

Ignoring and setting aside truth (exhortation / correction).

Our first response is excuse making and a close second is defensiveness.

3. **Exclusion**

At the deepest level pride is the choice to exclude God and other people from their rightful place in our hearts (lives).

All three are on full display among the disciples disputing about who should be considered the greatest (**vs. 24**).

If the greatest commandment is to love God and to love other people, exclusion is its greatest enemy!

Remember: We must fully embrace with heart (character), soul (conviction), mind (comprehension), and strength (competence / skill) the life and love of Jesus, compelling us to love (have compassion) our neighbor.

Through conceit, stubbornness, and exclusion pride...

- Destroys our capacity to love.
- Moves us to exclude instead of embrace.
- Moves us to judge rather than to serve.
- Develops an attitude of, “I am better than everyone else.”
- One thing that will never be present with pride is love. They aren’t friends and they refuse to be around each other.

Luke 9:46-48 An argument started among them about who was the greatest of them. **47** But Jesus, knowing their inner thoughts, took a little child and had him stand next to him. **48** He told them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes him who sent me. For whoever is least among you—this one is great.”

Why did Jesus have a little child stand next to him?

Vulnerability

Question: Are you willing to be vulnerable with yourself? With God? With others?

There are 2 choices.

Live according to the values of the world.

Live according to the values of the kingdom.

To eat and drink at the table of Jesus in his kingdom (**vs. 30**).

The opposite of selfishness is **humility**.

Humility -> ceasing to be preoccupied with self. Cherishing time with God and with others.

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. **4** Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

Jesus is *the example* for living a humble life.

How can I learn and grow in humility?

1. Before God

Recognizing the character, strength, and wisdom of God. He is trustworthy.

Isaiah 40:12-14 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains on a balance and the hills on the scales? **13** Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or who gave him counsel? **14** Who did he consult? Who gave him understanding and taught him the paths of justice? Who taught him knowledge and showed him the way of understanding?

2. As we approach His word

Hear, read, study, memorize, and meditate

Question: As we search scripture do we allow it to search us? As we read God's word, are we quiet / still long enough to allow it to read us?

3. Towards others (listening and serving)

- Taking the time to cultivate relationships.
- Opening ourselves up to the refinement of conversation.

1 Peter 5:5 In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**

- Learn to be situationally and relationally aware.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 13:14-15 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.

vs. 31-34, God's grace to us.

- He reminds us of the duality of the human heart.
- Jesus himself is praying for our faith.
- Forgiveness is ready when we fail.
- We have an opportunity to learn and to grow.
- We can be an example.

Question:

Take time this week to search the condition of your heart concerning conceit, stubbornness, and exclusion. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and take steps of repentance.

What will it mean for you to be humble before Jesus leading up to the week of prayer and practice?

What is your attitude towards being a servant? What does serving look like in your every day? How can you be an encouragement to others in your serving?