



Icon - Week 3

The powerful political and religious authorities of Jesus's time viewed his entire ethos as baffling—Kings put other people on crosses. They weren't supposed to end up there, themselves. And for those who came to believe in Jesus, following this kind of "loser" king was risky. After all, it required a person to pretty much give up on every prideful value that had been prominent in the Roman world, in favor of something so contrary to our nature that we are tempted to dismiss it—humility. This invitation to an entirely alternative lifestyle can be equally offensive in contemporary culture, even among other Christians.

Getting Started

1. What are you looking forward to this fall? What are you dreading as summer comes to a close?

What About You?

2. What is it about pride that keeps a prideful person distant? Why is it so hard to be close to an arrogant person?
3. How do you tend to react to the realization that you are the most powerful person in the room? What is your instinct?
4. When was the last time you saw an example of genuine humility? How did people respond to it?
5. Do you find yourself having to "win?" Or is it pretty easy to give up the right to be right, in your experience?



Look It Up

1 Peter 5:5, Matthew 14:15–16, John 6:14 –15, 13:3–15, Philippians 2:6,

6. Why do you think God favors the humble? What's behind this preference?
7. What all could Jesus have accomplished by force with the help of 5,000 men? Why didn't he?
8. What differences do you notice between how Jesus *could have* entered Jerusalem for Passover, and how he actually did?
9. How do you interpret Jesus's last act as a free man– to wash his disciples' feet?

Putting It All Together

10. Jesus took the posture of a slave with people he knew would abandon him before the night was even over. Do you have any relationships like this? How can you be of service in these situations?
11. Will you be on the lookout for opportunities to serve like Jesus this week– to leverage your position for other people?
12. How does your definition of "winning" compare to Jesus's?
13. What would proactively *chasing* humility look like for you right now?

