

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Virtues: Humility and the Power of Controlled Speech: Directing Others to Christ

Sermon Summary

This sermon explores the biblical concept of humility through the lens of controlling our tongue and our words. Using Jesus's humble entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as a foundation, the speaker examines how true humility stems from confidence in our identity as children of God rather than worldly self-confidence. The central message emphasizes that it is more important for others to know they are loved, valuable, and important—especially to God—than for us to be proven right in our opinions. The sermon challenges believers to use their words to direct people toward Jesus and the cross rather than toward themselves, recognizing that the joy of uplifting others and leading them to Christ far exceeds the satisfaction of being correct. Even when difficult truths must be spoken, they should be delivered with gentleness and humility, always keeping the ultimate goal of restoration and salvation in view.

Key Points

- Jesus demonstrated extraordinary humility by intentionally riding into Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a stallion, showing that He values humility
- Biblical humility is defined as "power under control" and "not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less"
- True confidence comes from knowing we are children of God, made in His image, not from worldly self-esteem
- It is more important that people know they are loved, important, and valuable than that we prove ourselves right
- Our words can direct people either toward or away from Jesus and the cross
- The joy of uplifting brothers and sisters in Christ is greater than the satisfaction of being correct

- When difficult truths must be spoken, they should be delivered with gentleness, patience, and humility—not as an opportunity to assert our opinions
- We should not make idols out of people or things, keeping God first in our lives
- The ultimate goal is to increase the chances of spending eternity with others in the presence of the Lord

Scripture References

- Luke 19:28-31 (Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey)
- Ephesians 4:1-3 (Walking worthy with humility, gentleness, and patience)
- John 21:9 (Jesus cooking with a charcoal fire)
- Romans 12:10 (Loving one another with brotherly affection and showing honor)
- Galatians 6:1 (Restoring others in a spirit of gentleness)
- 2 Timothy 2:24-25 (The Lord's servant must be kind, patient, and gentle in correction)

Discussion Questions

- How does Jesus's choice to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a powerful horse challenge our modern understanding of leadership and authority?
- In what ways do we confuse worldly self-confidence with biblical confidence, and how can we shift our confidence to be rooted in our identity as children of God?
- What does it mean practically to think of humility as 'power under control' rather than simply 'thinking less of yourself'?
- How often do we prioritize being right in conversations over making others feel loved, valued, and important, and what does this reveal about our hearts?
- When have you experienced the tension between wanting to correct someone biblically and needing to show them gentleness and love, and how did you navigate it?

- What idols in our lives, whether material possessions or even people, might we be placing above God without fully realizing it?
- How can our words either direct people toward Jesus and the cross or push them away, and what responsibility does this place on our daily conversations?
- In what situations might God be calling us to have difficult conversations with gentleness rather than avoiding them altogether or approaching them harshly?
- How does the joy of uplifting others and potentially leading them to Christ compare to the temporary satisfaction of winning an argument?
- What would change in our relationships if we truly believed that making others know they are loved by God is more important than making them know we are right?

Final Thoughts

1. People matter more than being right.

It is more important that others know they are loved, valued, and important—to you and to God—than that they know you are correct about an issue, even when you can “back it up biblically.”

2. Humility is power under control, expressed especially in our words.

Like Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, true humility is not weakness but controlled strength. Verbal humility means choosing words that build others up and point them toward Christ, rather than using our words to win arguments or prove ourselves.

3. Even hard truths must be spoken with gentleness and a cross-ward focus.

There are times we must correct or confront, especially on gospel essentials, but Scripture calls us to do so with love, patience, and gentleness. Our goal is always restoration and helping others move toward Jesus and the cross, not scoring points or airing our opinions.

5-Day Devotional: The Humility That Speaks Louder Than Words

Day 1: The Power Under Control

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: Jesus, the King of Glory, chose a donkey for His triumphal entry—not to diminish His majesty, but to demonstrate true power under control. This is biblical humility: infinite authority exercised with infinite gentleness. Today, consider where you're tempted to display your power, knowledge, or correctness. True confidence doesn't come from proving ourselves right, but from knowing whose we are. You are God's beloved child, created in His image, known before birth, and designed for purpose. When you rest in this identity, you no longer need to inflate yourself. Like Christ, you can choose the humble path—not because you lack power, but because you possess something greater: the security of being loved by God. Let this truth silence the need to always be right.

Day 2: Words That Build Bridges

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6, 29-32

Devotional: "It is more important that people know they are loved, important, and valuable than that they know I'm right." This revolutionary truth challenges our natural instincts. We crave validation through being correct, especially when we have biblical backing. Yet Paul urges us toward something higher: building unity through gentle, patient love. Before you speak today, pause and ask: "Will these words draw this person toward Christ or toward my ego?" Your opinions on secondary matters—however biblically informed—will never save anyone. But your humble, honoring love might open a heart to the Gospel. Choose to outdo others in showing honor. Let your words be seasoning that makes people thirsty for Living Water, not barriers that keep them from the well.

Day 3: The Confidence to Be Humble

Reading: Psalm 139:1-18

Devotional: Worldly confidence shouts, "Look at me!" Biblical confidence whispers, "Look at Him." The psalmist's confidence doesn't rest in personal accomplishments but in being fearfully and wonderfully made by a God who knows every thought before it's spoken. This is where true humility begins—not in self-deprecation, but in God-appreciation. You are uniquely crafted, the only

version of your DNA in all history, created with intentional purpose. This isn't arrogance; it's acknowledgment of your Designer's genius. When you're secure in God's love, you don't need to prove your worth through winning arguments or asserting correctness. Today, replace "self-confidence" with "God-confidence." Let His opinion of you matter more than anyone else's—including your own. From this foundation, genuine humility flows naturally.

Day 4: Speaking Truth in Love

Reading: Galatians 6:1-5, 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Devotional: Sometimes love requires difficult conversations. When someone believes a lie that threatens their salvation, silence isn't humility—it's cowardice. But notice the instruction: restore gently, correct with patience, teach with kindness. The gloves never come off. Having a necessary hard conversation doesn't give permission to unleash harsh words or slip in unrelated opinions. The goal isn't winning an argument; it's winning a soul. Approach correction as a spiritual surgeon, not a verbal warrior. Your tone matters as much as your truth. Before confronting error, examine your own heart. Are you motivated by love for them or love for being right? Pray for gentleness. Speak as one beggar telling another where to find bread—not as a judge pronouncing sentence. Truth delivered without love is just noise.

Day 5: Directing Hearts Toward the Cross

Reading: John 21:1-14, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Devotional: Jesus cooked breakfast over charcoal for His disciples after resurrection. This intimate moment wasn't about proving His power but restoring relationship. Every word we speak, every discussion we engage, should have one ultimate direction: pointing toward Jesus and the cross. Your political opinions won't save anyone. Your financial wisdom won't redeem a soul. Your correct theology on secondary issues won't open heaven's gates. Only Christ crucified and risen holds that power. As you navigate conversations this week, ask: "Am I directing attention toward myself or toward the Savior?" In a thousand years, the petty arguments you won will be forgotten, but the souls you loved toward Jesus will shine like stars. Choose joy over satisfaction, relationship over righteousness, and eternal perspective over temporary correctness. Let your words be arrows pointing home.

