

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 3, 2024**

**“Listening to Jesus ~ The Dangers of Pride & The Importance of Humility”**

**Philippians 2:1-11 & Mark 9:30-41**

Humility isn't considered a \_\_\_\_\_ in our proud, self-centred culture, nor was it in Jesus' day. In fact, Aristotle, one of the most influential philosophers of the ancient world, described pride as the “\_\_\_\_\_ of virtues.”

*pride* =

*Huper* =

*Ephania*=

*Huper-ephania* =

“Human pride will be brought down, and human arrogance will be humbled. Only the Lord will be exalted on the day of judgment.” (Isaiah 2:11)

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

*Anti-tass-omai* =

Pride is the \_\_\_\_\_ of every other sin ever committed ever since. And so, it's not surprising that every conflict we go through has an element of \_\_\_\_\_ mixed into it.

The source of our pride is \_\_\_\_\_ of us—it's our sinful \_\_\_\_\_.

“It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts...” (Mark 7:20-23)

“Don't do anything from selfish ambition or vain conceit. Instead, be humble and give more honour to others than to yourself.” (Philippians 2:3)

*humble* =

Humility isn't thinking \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves; it's not thinking about ourselves at all! The focus isn't on us, but others. Humility isn't putting ourselves down—it's \_\_\_\_\_ other people up. Humility isn't devaluing me—it's \_\_\_\_\_ you more. Humility isn't denying my strengths, it's being \_\_\_\_\_ about my weaknesses.

If we live a humble life, \_\_\_\_\_ on God—if we think about others more than ourselves—God promises to give us His presence, \_\_\_\_\_, and peace.

Any time I'm acting, speaking, or thinking something in a prideful, arrogant, or conceited way, I'm in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. I may be \_\_\_\_\_ in my thinking, theology or politics; however, if I'm presenting it in a prideful way, I'm wrong.

The only way our relationships will last is with God's \_\_\_\_\_. And the only way we get God's grace is by being \_\_\_\_\_.

Although foreign to our fallen human nature, humility is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Christian life

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

“For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)

**Jesus: An \_\_\_\_\_ of humility.**

In Matthew 11:29, Jesus describes Himself as “gentle and humble of \_\_\_\_\_,” and He demonstrated this throughout His earthly life and ministry.

Jesus is the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to humility and so, when we find ourselves in the midst of a problem, conflict, or difficult decision, we need to seek to have the same \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus would have had in that situation.

**3 EXAMPLES OF WHAT IT MEANS TO ACT LIKE JESUS**

• **Don't \_\_\_\_\_ what you think you \_\_\_\_\_.**

We can go through life with a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_—thinking we deserve so much. And when we don't get it, we can get demanding.

“Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God...” (Phil 2:6)

**In your relationships are you understanding or are you demanding?**

• **Look for ways to \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form...” (Phil 2:7)

In the Kingdom of God, it isn't the number of people serving us that determines our importance, but rather the number of people we're \_\_\_\_\_.

The more we give our lives away, the more God blesses us with \_\_\_\_\_. In the Kingdom of God, the way up is \_\_\_\_\_; and the way to honour is humility.

“If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)

**Do you have a servant’s heart?**

**Do you seek to serve others or are you only looking to serve yourself?**

Do what’s \_\_\_\_\_ even when it \_\_\_\_\_.

“...he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:8)

Everyday we find ourselves in situations where we have a \_\_\_\_\_: Will I do what I want to do or what God wants me to do? Will I do what’s right—even though it will cost me something or will I take the easy way out?

Humility and \_\_\_\_\_ go hand in hand.

**When it comes to doing the right thing, how obedient are you?**

Jesus’ death on the cross was the \_\_\_\_\_ expression of His humility.

The thought of a crucified Messiah was a \_\_\_\_\_ for the disciples; and utterly incomprehensible and \_\_\_\_\_ to them. The disciples needed to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves, listen carefully, and understand what Jesus was saying to them about His death and resurrection.

**#2. Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ on humility.**

#### FOUR NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF PRIDE

• **Pride destroys \_\_\_\_\_.**

“But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.” (Mark 9:34)

Jesus had just spoken to them about His ultimate humiliation and death, and all they could think about was their own \_\_\_\_\_. However, the deeper issue here is that there can be no real \_\_\_\_\_ among proud people, because only humble people can truly \_\_\_\_\_.

The danger revealed here is that pride ruins unity by \_\_\_\_\_ relationships.

• **Pride \_\_\_\_\_ honour.**

“He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)

Proud people battle for position and seek to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. However, they

only end up forfeiting true honour and often end in \_\_\_\_\_.

Like many in our day, the disciples viewed spiritual pride as \_\_\_\_\_, desirable, and \_\_\_\_\_. Pursuing accolades, \_\_\_\_\_, and exaltation from other people forfeits the true reward that comes to those who are willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ and not first.

• **Pride \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

“Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’” (Mk 9:36-37)

Jesus used children several times as illustrations for \_\_\_\_\_ because they had not yet accomplished or achieved anything; they had no \_\_\_\_\_ or honour; but were weak, \_\_\_\_\_, and ignored

“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven...If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matthew 18:3; 6)

• **Pride creates \_\_\_\_\_.**

“John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.’” (Mark 9:38-40)

Following Jesus and doing His work isn’t meant to be an \_\_\_\_\_ thing. All who speak in Jesus’ name are called to work \_\_\_\_\_ for the glory of God.

• **The positive effect: Humility gains \_\_\_\_\_.**

“For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.” (Mark 9:41)

It’s humility, expressed even in a small act of \_\_\_\_\_, such a giving a cup of water, that results in true and \_\_\_\_\_ reward.

“The reward of humility and fear of the Lord are riches, honour, and life.” (Proverbs 22:4)