



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 47 “Lessons in Humility” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 9:46-50 ESV

Who Is the Greatest?

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

Anyone Not Against Us Is For Us

⁴⁹ John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

Introduction:

Is it wrong to lack humility especially when living for Jesus?

- Yes, because the Gospel is about the work of God that saves not your work for God, so you can’t boast about it. **(Eph. 2:8-9)**
- Yes, because the offer of the Gospel is to humble oneself before God not to demand your rights. **(1 Cor. 9)**
- Yes, because the Gospel is about a God that saves through humbling Himself and our greatest work is to glorify Him by reflecting that humility. **(Phil. 2)**

What keeps us from being Humble? PRIDE, it is the fountain from which our EGO Centeredness flows. “All expressions of sin flow out of dominant pride in the human heart, pride then is the core corruption.” John MacArthur

Lesson #1 on Humility

⇒ **Humility Deprivation comes from Self-Identification as the VIP.**



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(You want to make more of you while God is always looking to make more out of His Son)

We start off, unbeknownst to us unless we look at the other gospels like **Mark 9** and see that the Apostles & disciples have left Galilee and have returned to Capernaum. It was the trip back home to pack up supplies, tie up loose ends, and for Jesus, to say your last farewells. It is on the heels of the Transfiguration and the healing of a demonically possessed little boy that we see the disciples start to struggle with Humility.

It's possible that the disciples are sensing the endgame approaching. From the glorification of Jesus by the Father on a mountain, to the exorcising of a demon in front of the scribes, and to the clearing out of the ranks of disciples that couldn't stomach following Jesus. **The Disciples begin to have an argument to see where the pecking order was now.** They are perhaps having illusions of what happened less than 200 years back later when the Maccabean revolted against the Seleucid empire. But this is Jesus we are talking about, a proven leader and powerful man that had the favor of the common man. Perhaps they were feeling the pressure of wanting to make sure they got the good seat on the bus.

Jesus catches them arguing about it, and the Lord in the way that only He can, draws it out, it says in the text He knew the reasoning in their heart. Jesus had stated last week that there is an end to his presence with them, to His availability to teach first-hand about how they should be, *“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men”* (vs.44). There is an important truth that Jesus knows and wants to teach it to His guys.

“Before destruction a man's heart becomes haughty, but humility comes before honor.” – Prov.18:12 ESV

This is one of the hardest lessons ever to learn. We can't shoot for wanting to be honored (**because that is tainted PRIDE**) because that causes destruction but if we shoot for humility, for Christ's sake, honor is waiting for us.



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The man that wrote 1/3 of the NT is probably the most honored of all the biblical scholars, I want you to see what he thinks about himself.

- I am the least of the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:9 – AD 59
- I am the very least of all the saints. Ephesians 3:8 – AD 63
- I am the foremost of sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15 – AD 64

Each year he descends to a lower position about himself and in the end, God glorifies his servant by sharing his trials and tribulations with us in the scriptures. Paul’s greatest desire was to build God’s Kingdom and by learning his lessons in humility, according to Prov. 18, he received honor.

Maybe that’s your issue this morning is that you are having the hardest time in developing Humility because **your aim is to make life about increasing the fame of your name more than increasing the fame and name of Christ.** It’s subtle how it works, we **PUBLICLY** praise our kids, our weight loss, our number of followers on SM, we tout how many good things we stand for. Instead of, like Paul, talking about how lowly we are because of our comparisons to Christ. **Humility is everlasting and makes the obsolete noticeable, Pride is devastating and will cause people to have sour tastes in their mouths long after you are gone.**

Lesson #2 on Humility

⇒ **The Desire to be Great comes with the Responsibility to be Least.**

⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

Just to be clear in the intent of Jesus’ lesson here - in Jewish culture of the day, a woman was loved and cared for, but her social standing was not the same as a man. Lower than that in importance in society was a child. Even if you were the first born male your part in society was not be seen, never bring attention to yourself, stay out of the way, learn to work, and when it was time you were celebrated not as a child but as becoming an adult at your Bar(13) /bat(12)Mitz vah. Whether you think that is good or bad [btw we need to have a desire and expectation for our children



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to grow up and live for God that is a good thing] the lesson here is that Jesus is all about redeeming modern culture’s perceptions of who is important and why. **Jesus is making the point that taking time for that child is the same as taking time for Him.** That right there will preach to all of us parents.

Doing what Jesus commands means that the disciples are receptive to the commands of God, unlike the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees who were all ok with keeping the pecking order. Then Jesus goes one step further, “**he who is least among you all is the one who is great.**” Again, He goes against modern teaching in His day and ours. He believes that the ones He is sending, the Empowered Apostles, those set apart for God’s own work, that the greatest of them will be known by how they serve. **They will be set apart as being great by service, obedience, and humility not by power, wealth, and achievement.** It is a call not just for the Apostles but for us as well:

Philippians 2:3-5 ESV

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more **significant** than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you **look not only** to his **own interests**, but also to the **interests of others**. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

The reason this is hard is because we have fallen under the philosophy of Ricky Bobby, “If you aint first your last!” **God’s answer for us is - in order to be first then you have to be last!** He who suffers the most for His name sake and is humiliated in front of others for God - WINS, as proven by the Son!

Philippians 2:6-11 ESV

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in



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heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus won for us, for all time, because **He who was the greatest served the least deserving, the betrayers of the covenant.** Because of it, God has raised Him up so high that every tongue will confess it one day, that He is Lord and it was all modeled and done perfectly for us all to serve the Father. **Jesus’ desire to be great came with the ultimate calling to die as one who had no rights to be the least for all!**

Yes, we can say ‘NO’ to earthly accolades, yes we can say ‘NO’ to only accepting those that culture deems worthy, and YES, **we can assume the responsibility to be least by serving others because being least here on earth is declaring to the world who is the greatest of all time!** Are you receiving His teaching this morning?

Lesson #3 on Humility

⇒ **Comparative judgment doesn’t exist in the Kingdom, be what your called to be and stop worrying about everyone else..**

⁴⁹ John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

John seems to be a little taken back and makes like a deflecting comment or a defensive statement trying to get Jesus on another topic. *Lord don’t get caught up in correcting us, we are really on your side, we are the protectors of right doctrine here.* Look we were correcting this dude that was trying to cast out demons in your name. Jesus, being the smart guy, understands that why he may not be traveling with the disciples, their paths may be different, this man was showing faith in the name of Jesus and by his work was making Him more known.

“Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.” - That should deflate the guys now. Jesus is not berating them but in a kind way He’s saying,



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the Kingdom is not dependent on you. Jesus wants them to stop being worried about others, especially if it is giving them a sense of importance over others that may or may not be doing the right things.

That temptation is to want to pump yourself up as being the one that knows better, that believes **others don't have the right to be as close to Jesus as you are. If you do feel that way, then you're probably not that close to Him.** The church, here at HCC and across this community, is made up of all different kinds of people called for different reasons to bring glory to God in different ways. Paul makes this comment to a bickering church in Corinth when all they could do was comparatively judge each other:

1 Corinthians 12

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...¹⁸ God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose...²⁴ But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

“for the one who is not against you is for you”

Family it is such a great temptation to judge others because they don't do what you do, and they don't do it like you would have them do it. It happens in the inside and outside of this church. **Let's spend more time about making much about Jesus and less time about making much about people's differences.** Keep sticking to the Creeds and the 5 Solas and the church will be preserved.

This morning let us leave here today and put away our petty disputes over who is better, who is right, and who is wrong and instead let us focus on the author and



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finisher of our faith, receive His teachings as a child, and practice loving one another by counting each other as more significant than ourselves.

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that forgives and lovingly corrects our Pride when we seek to feed our ego instead of praising His Son.

Go in the name of the Son that humbled Himself to the Father for our good, to serve the least to make us co-heirs in the Kingdom.

Go in the name and the power of the HS that empowers us to be humble so that we may count others more significant than ourselves.