

The Journey to Eternity
Week 3 | Jan. 18/19, 2014

Who Is Great?
Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45



When Jesus saw the deadly sin of pride creeping into the lives of the disciples, he gathered them together and took some teaching opportunities concerning humility.

Read Mark 9:33-37 and 10:35-45.

Imagine yourself in these scenes as one of the disciples, discussing glory and greatness with your friends. Jesus sits you all down and looks at *you* and says,

"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all."

[Q] What is your response?

What is humility?

The personal quality of 1) being **free from arrogance and pride** and 2) having **an accurate estimate of one's worth**. *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

Free from arrogance and pride

What does humility free us from?

- obsessing with ourselves
- comparing ourselves with others
- demanding more for ourselves

[Q] How does pride or arrogance show up in your life?

[Q] In the following passages, what does God say are bad and good kinds of boasting?

Jeremiah 9:23-24

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Accurate estimate of one's worth

[Q] There are plenty of sources in the world from which we assess our self-worth. What are some of them?

[Q] How do we get a true and accurate view of ourselves? How can we help each other with this?

Humility means that we accept our reality: we are sinners decisively saved by grace once for all *but* we also continually sin and continually need grace. Humility depends not on considering oneself to be worthless but in resting securely in our being loved more deeply by a loving Father than our very deepest sins can go. That is why, according to Chesterton, "It is always the secure who are humble."
Tim Keller, The Advent of Humility

Apply: Humility in Attitude and Action

Humility is best developed, not directly, but as a by-product of our relationship with Jesus.

[Q] Jesus demonstrated humility and true greatness by descending, living, serving, depending on the Father, sacrificing... what are the results of His humility for you? For Him?

Humility doesn't feel a right to better treatment than Jesus got. [John Piper](#)

[Q] Discuss some ideas to fight pride. Here are some ideas to get us started:

- Look for the good in others instead of comparing yourself more favorably than them.
- Practice accepting all good things as gifts from God in praise and gratitude.
- Seek out opportunities to serve in mundane ways.
- Admit mistakes and apologize.
- Ask for help when you need it (allow others to serve you).
- Study the ways Jesus is humble.

[Q] Which one will you work on? How? Who will you ask to help?

For further study:

Ken Boa Bible study on humility: bible.org/seriespage/humility
Tim Keller booklets: *The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness*, *The Advent of Humility*

Pray
