

Humility and Pride

Recap: Series called "Ascend:

- Using the primary image of a mountain
- Bottom of the mountain is 'basecamp' and a lower-level of experiencing God
- Top of the mountain (the SUMMIT) is the maximum amount we can experience God in this life - it's much greater than most people recognize or realize
 - **WE determine how close to God we will be, not God. God has made a way for everyone to be close to Him as they truly desire to be. If you seek Me, you will find Me. If you draw near to Me, I will draw near to you.'** If desire to be close to the Lord badly, one will give themselves fully to that end and lay aside anything that hinders intimacy with the Lord. We have what we seek.
- Fact= there is MORE of God we can experience in this life - don't settle for less
- God's love language is OBEDIENCE (can't ascend in friendship without obedience)

Last Week:

- 2 obstacles to ascension= Sin and Distraction



- Sin and distraction get in the way and prevent one from growing in friendship and intimacy with God, and sometimes, can knock you off the mountain completely
- The absence of sin and distraction, however, does not lead to greater ascension but enables one to stay put. Forward momentum and ascension can be accomplished by focusing on a couple of key characteristics: humility and holiness, both of which are not easy, and both of which only come about through God's grace and the work of the Divine Sherpa, the Holy Spirit

Tension:

- Sin and distraction get in the way and prevent one from growing in friendship and intimacy with God, and sometimes, can knock you off the mountain completely
- The absence of sin and distraction, however, does not lead to greater ascension but enables one to not lose ground.
- Forward momentum and ascension can be accomplished by focusing on a couple of key characteristics - focusing on one this morning: humility; it's not easy, and only made possible through God's grace and the work and presence of the Divine Sherpa, the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:13-16 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Philippians 2:1-8 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

[Back our way into talking about Humility by first talking about the opposite of humility = Pride:](#)

- Pride: a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements
- Pride is dangerous and deceptiveness
 - Pride is thinking about oneself more than they ought
 - Pride places Confidence in oneself instead of confidence in the Lord, which leads to deception and a lack of an accurate sense of self
 - I personally pride myself on not being one who struggles with pride, but I know a lot of people who do struggle with pride (this is a joke)
 - Pride makes you think you don't need anyone else - namely, the Lord - and does not give God the glory that God is due for God is the one who made you, gave you your gifts, smooths the edges with His grace
 - Pride is often difficult for one to detect in oneself

- *The New York Times Magazine* reported "only 17 percent of people say they are overly concerned about themselves or prideful; and yet 60 of people percent think that most people are overly concerned about themselves and prideful",
 - We need the Holy Spirit to help us detect our pride, to crucify it, and to help us overcome pride's pull
 - Pride is toxic and poisonous, like a Pufferfish

The Potent Poison of Pride

the Pufferfish, Also known as blowfish, can inflate into a ball shape to evade predators. They are clumsy swimmers and when in danger, they fill their elastic stomachs with huge amounts of water (and sometimes air) and blow themselves up to several times their normal size ... But these blow-up fish aren't just cute. Most pufferfish contain a toxic substance that makes them foul tasting and potentially deadly to other fish. The toxin is deadly to humans—1,200 times more deadly than cyanide. There is enough poison in one pufferfish to kill 30 adult humans, and there is no known antidote.

Like Pufferfish, human beings can blow themselves up with pride and arrogance to make themselves look bigger than they are. And this pride can become toxic to a marriage, a church, a friendship, and most certainly one's relationship with the Lord.

- Pride often makes people feel as though they are invincible, while in reality, it makes you vulnerable
 - Like a warrior without armor on the backside)
 - When you think you are least vulnerable to falling is when you are most vulnerable;
- Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Worship Note: Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

"Pride is your greatest enemy, humility is your greatest friend."

Humility:

- Humility definition: Having a correct view of one's own position relative to the Person of Christ
 - For a Christian, there is no position apart from Christ
 - Bracelet: "I am 2nd"
 - Pride is the opposite of humility; pride is 'I am first, everything else is 2nd'

Worship Note: Humility is not thinking **less** of yourself, but thinking of yourself **less**.

- Knowing our true condition brings about humility, because we can be deceived about our true condition - we are dependent on the Lord for everything
- Humility is not shrinking back, "oh I'm just so weak"...we are to be warriors clothed in the armor of God, but need to be cloaked in humility at all times, as well, recognizing that without Christ, we are doomed and deceived by a wrong view of our true condition and abilities, and our ability to bring about anything worthwhile for the kingdom
- Humility is being aware of our true condition, which is our utter dependence on our Lion & Lamb, Jesus
 - Lamb put our needs ahead of his own life
 - As followers of the Lamb, the needs of others are worthy of consideration - but the Lord's will trumps all
 - Complex - knowing when to put down the sword and pick up the wash basin...
 - Like Peter cutting off ear, Jesus told him not the time
 - With us, the Holy Spirit tells us what time is what
- **False Humility Examples**

False humility is actually just more self-centeredness.

- Rick Joyner: "All of your failures will be the result of one thing: self-centeredness. The only way to be delivered from this is to walk in love. Love does not seek its own."

Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6
 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

- **Worship Note:** Getting **lower** takes you **higher**.
- God is the one who elevates you; He takes us higher as we strive to lower ourselves for His sake and place confidence in His son instead of ourselves.

Philippians 2:1-8

- Verses convey we are to 'hold the needs and interests of others in high regards'
 - This can be challenging; this is Not the human condition
- As stated before, Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.
- **Jesus made a choice; Jesus chose to make 'himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant' - the lowest possible human status - and humbled himself, to the point of death on a Cross, accepting the death prescribed for slaves and criminals - crucifixion**
- In many respects, Humility is a choice -a tough choice, but a choice nonetheless, Must choose to put on the 'cloak of humility'
 - Why did He choose do so?
 - Because he loves us
 - Why would we choose do so?
 - Because we love Him
 - Until the image of Christ is fully formed in us and the supernatural becomes natural, we do it, we have high regard of the needs of others, we wrap a towel around our waste when the Spirit says to do so, because we want to live a life pleasing to the one who went low so that we could go high, and sit in heavenly places with the Father, Son & Spirit
 - We choose it in order To ascend and be close to the One who chose us
- Philippians 2 passage ends this way:

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- In the end, God does a stunning reversal: God takes Jesus from the lowest place and takes him to the highest place
- Humiliation leads to exaltation - God exalts the Son who has shown unbelievable humility, and the Son ascends to the Father
- This is what God will do for us; as we get lower, God takes us higher

Closing

