

“Exemplary Holiness”

Introduction

- Continue series, “Holy Cow, Living for God in an ungodly culture”
 - Acknowledge it’s challenging Living for God in today’s world; competing priorities; culture defining what is acceptable and what one needs to be ‘successful’
- Where have we been?
 - Holy Living is the ability to “love one another deeply, from the heart”
 - We have explored how holiness looks in our individual lives, in community and relationship with one another
- Today= Continue to look at this idea of “loving one another deeply, from the heart” and the driving motivations behind it

Tension: Been wrestling with holiness and how we can live for God in an ungodly culture - it’s impossible to achieve holiness - loving God and others deeply from the heart - apart from humility...what is humility, and how do you live it out? What does being humble mean?

The pathway to holiness (loving God and others deeply from the heart) is following Jesus’s example and / or becoming nothing and allowing God to be everything

1 Peter 5:1-4

- Jesus = Shepherd = Good Shepherd (Lays His life down for His sheep)
 - Jesus = our example
 - Paradox/Duality= we are sheep following Jesus but we are shepherds to others
 - ‘Really only one Shepherd, we are to be sheepdogs :) (David Wofford)
 - We do serve in the role as shepherd, as well
 - Not just for pastors - example of holiness from a leadership capacity; it’s about being a Christian leader regardless of context (church, work or home) and everyone should have people carings/shepherding them, and everyone should be shepherding others
 - We are all called to be Disciples making Disciples, to what extent may be different for each individual and who we are shepherding looks different, can think of it as mentoring
 - Chad Daniel- shepherded and now shepherding
 - Testimony of what God has done in Chad’s life
 - 3 - 4 kids embracing Jesus as Lord!
 - WILLINGNESS ... had lots of excuses as to why not a good time - see me later (new baby, coaching, ramped up responsibilities as a teacher) but felt the Lord say, ‘now’...and he was willing
 - Will receive crown of glory - future reward (challenged to be motivated by a future reward as we like instant gratification, but living for beyond this world is an important facet of Kingdom living)

1 Peter 5:5

- Submitting / yielding has been a theme throughout 1 Peter
 - Slaves to masters
 - Wives to husbands
 - ‘Every human institution’
 - Submission is a characteristic of Kingdom living
- Humility = THE key characteristic of ‘holiness’
 - The act of humility “Loving others deeply from the heart”
 - Cloak of humility
 - When think of humility, I think of my father-in-law
 - Opposite of pride, which is at the core of every sin - self-propagation, self-promotion, self-interest, self-gratification
 - God ‘opposes’ the proud

- Opposes = 'resists'
 - Removes favor/lack of favor

1 Peter 6-11

- In v. 6-9 we have this Cause and effect theme going on
 - Humble yourself= Be Exalted (by God)
 - Cast Anxiety on Him= He Cares for you
 - **Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)**
 - Yoke: Our yoke= heavy, wearisome, burdened. . . .His yoke= Easy and light
 - Exchange, Have to give Him ours to get His
 - Sober-minded & alert= Resisting devil
 - In a war against the Devil, not other people, called to love them, but battle against the rulers, principalities, powers, spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6)
 - **James 4:7-8 (NIV)**
- Summed up - what enables us / motivates us to do all of these things (Shepherd/Leading, Humble, Cast Anxiety, Resist Devil) and more is the example of Jesus...
 - Jesus, Jesus and more Jesus
 - Brent's driving motivation is to be like Jesus and do the things he told us to do, which means being humble like Jesus to the point of coming to earth and laying life down
 - Chris hears that and agrees, but hearing 'be like Jesus, love others deeply from the heart, regard others better than yourself' isn't enough - sounds good and true, but in reality, it's super
 - Chris' driving motivation - 'my food is to do the father's will'
 - While motivations are slightly nuanced, end result is holiness - love God and others deeply from heart

Closing

- Three things
 - Who are you shepherding?
 - What anxieties/worries do you need to give to Jesus?
 - What areas of your life do you need to be humble?