

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Sojourn // The Path of Humility

Pastor Gabe

April 2, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: If you were a beverage, which one would you be?

Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-11 and John 12:12-19

Outline:

- I. Humility in leadership (1 Peter 5:1-3).
 - A. Humility does not mean humiliation, it doesn't mean being a doormat, having low self-esteem or not using your strengths or pursuing success. It doesn't mean not having strong convictions.
 - B. "Compared to high-profile leaders with big personalities who make headlines and become celebrities, the good-to-great leaders seem to have come from Mars. Self-effacing, quiet, reserved, even shy—these leaders are a paradoxical blend of personal humility and professional will." - Jim Collins
Q: How do we stay humble without falling into the trap of low self-esteem?
- II. Humility before others (1 Peter 5:5)
 - A. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less." -C.S. Lewis
 - B. Peter says in this verse that those who are less spiritually mature should listen to those who God has placed over them. In fact, he says we all should clothe ourselves with humility towards one another.
Q: What does thinking of yourself less look like?
- III. Humility before God (1 Peter 5:6-7)
 - A. "If self-obsession is the opposite of humility, the only way out is to stop navel gazing is to first look up to God and then out in service to others." -Pastor Gabe
 - B. We are so accustomed to navel gazing because we think the world owes us something and we're going to get what we're owed. But, God doesn't owe us anything. And yet has given us everything.
Q: When do you catch yourself in the midst of self-obsession?
- IV. Humility as war (1 Peter 5:8-9)
 - A. "The devil traffics in lies. Faith believes the truth. Faith resists the devil, because faith is an act of humility. See, the lie of the devil is that you are all you've got. So, the natural conclusion of that is self-obsession and pride. Faith says I am dependent on something or someone outside of myself for my life, for my meaning, and for my salvation." -Pastor Gabe
 - B. In order to resist the devil, we must use our faith to believe in the truths God reveals to us.
Q: How can we avoid believing the devil's lies?
- V. Humility as victory (John 12:12-19)
 - A. Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey shows us how humility is victory. Jesus made the noble choice to forgo his status, deploy his resources or use his influence for the good of others before himself.
 - B. True glory lies in Jesus humbling himself for our sake. In humility, Jesus was born into this world for us, rode on a donkey for us, died on a cross for us, and in His humility He achieved eternal victory for us.
Q: When have you felt that practicing humility has led to victory?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can you show humility in leadership in your daily life?

- 2) How can we tell when God has placed someone more spiritually mature over us intentionally?
- 3) Have you ever felt like God owed you something? Why?
- 4) When should we be like Jesus and forgo our status for the sake of humility?

Suggestions for further study:

- Zechariah 9:9 Q: How does this verse remind us of Jesus's true status?
- 2 Timothy 4:8 Q: How does this verse provide further examples of how humility is victory?

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for choosing the path of humility instead of violence and force. Thank you for dying to save us from our sins, so that we might be able to approach the Father in humility. Teach us to be more like you and to recognize that humility is victory. Amen.