

Jesus Humbled Himself

February 3, 2019

THE
DISCIPLE
MAKER

Open: Share about a recent time that you've witnessed humility.

Read & Discuss: Philippians 2:1-8

1. Looking at Paul's summary of his expectations for believers in verses 2-4, how would you define what it means to be humble? How does humility differ from having low self-esteem? In what ways does being humble run counter to our sinful nature?
2. In verse 1, how does Paul seek to encourage other believers to pursue humility? How should having the benefits that Paul mentions in verse 1 motivate us to be humble? What encourages you to pursue humility?
3. Looking at verses 5-8, how would you describe in your own words the mind of Christ with regard to humility? How was Jesus' humility seen in both his thoughts and his actions? What does Jesus' example teach us about being humble ourselves?
4. In verse 5 Paul says he "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped." What are some areas where you're tempted to seek personal honor or selfish ambition? What can we learn from Jesus' example about how to respond to these temptations?
5. Verse 8 reminds us that being humble cost Jesus greatly. What are some ways being humble might cost us today? What helps you to push past any fears and pursue humility despite what it may cost you?

Read & Discuss: Luke 18:9-14

6. How would you describe the heart attitude of the Pharisee and of the tax collector in this passage? How can we cultivate a heart more like the tax collector?
7. Jesus promises that the "one who humbles himself will be exalted" (v. 14). How does the promise of exaltation align with Jesus' call to pursue humility?

Apply: What are some ways that we could pursue humility this week? What's one specific action that you could take in this area?

Pray: Pray that we would be people who embrace and model Jesus' example of humility.

Philippians 2:1-8

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 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, 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. (ESV)

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (ESV)