True Greatness October 7, 2018

*Philippians 2:1-11 Series: Inextinguishable Joy*

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. – Mark 10:45

Intro: Which leader would you follow?

1. Let Christ’s blessings fuel your humility.
2. The ‘new humility’ isn’t humility at all.

#humbled?

Matthew 6:1 *Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

Proverbs 27:2 *Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.*

1. True humility pursues unity, avoids attention and serves others.

v. 2 *complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind*

v. 3 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

v. 4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1. True humility is the goal of Christ’s blessings.

v. 1 *any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy*

* What stands out to you in the definition of humility in vv. 2-4?
* How can you tell if your ambition has become selfish?
* How can you express true humility in a world of social media?

1. Let Christ’s example inspire your humility.
2. Christ’s humility didn’t cling to His privileges.

v. 6 *though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped*

Sean McDonough: “Form” [in vv. 6 and 7] means the true and exact nature of something, possessing all the characteristics and qualities of something.

v. 7 *emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant*

Genesis 3:5 *God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*

Adam’s selfishness pursued the privileges of a divinity he didn’t possess. Christ’s humility set aside the privileges of a divinity He did possess.

1. Christ’s humility didn’t advertise His greatness.

v. 7 *being born in the likeness of men*

v. 8 *being found in human form*

1. Christ’s humility faced shame and death for His enemies.

v. 8 *he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*

* What are some of the privileges Jesus set aside to bring us salvation?
* Jesus is the king who came as a servant, but He was only seen as a servant. Why is it harder to act like a servant when you’re also treated like a servant?
* What made the cross the ultimate act of humility?

1. Let Christ’s exaltation motivate your humility.
2. Jesus was lifted up because He was willing to lower Himself.

v. 9 *Therefore God has highly exalted him …*

Matthew 28:18 *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

1. One day everyone will be humbled before Jesus.

vv. 10-11 *at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*

1. Jesus will lift up all who lower themselves as He did.

Luke 18:14 *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.*

* According to v. 9, why was Jesus exalted by God? i.e. What’s the “therefore” there for?
* What will it be like for those who have proudly rejected Jesus’ salvation when they are made to bow before Him?
* What did Jesus mean in Luke 18:14 when He said that “the one who humbles himself will be exalted?” i.e. What are some ways that Christians will be “exalted” in heaven?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Philippians 2:12-18

Notes