Wednesday in the Word October 23, 2024

**Humility**

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 22:4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

**What is Humility?**

The Miriam-Webster dictionary defines it as; freedom from pride or arrogance; the quality or state of being humble. The word has its origin in the Latin word humilis, meaning "low".

A summarized biblical definition might be; a personal quality in which an individual displays dependence on God and respect, compassion and concern for others over selfish desires and ambitions.

What God desires most is not sacrifices but a broken and contrite (humbled) spirit. (Psalm 51:17)

Jesus provided the best example of humility. He was obedient to God – even to death. He loved people – the blind man begging; the woman caught in adultery; the Roman Centurion who asked healing for his servant. In the New Testament, humility is often associated with "meekness". Yet Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers. The Greek world, like our world today, abhorred the quality of humility or meekness, but the Word of God honors the humble.

The world in which we live today is akin to the Greek world of Jesus' day. A humble person is most often viewed as weak, soft or lazy, or that they lack ambition. But this is far from the truth when we consider the biblical definition. What we do know is that the opposite of humility is pride-full-ness. Proverbs 9:16-19 states ***"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes*** (pride), ***a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood*** (evil doings), ***a heart that devises wicked schemes*** (impure heart), ***feet that a re quick to rush into evil*** (foolishness), ***a false witness who pours ours out lies*** (false testimony) ***and a man who stirs up conflict in the community*** (creates disunity).

Hate is not usually a word associated with God. God is Love. Look at the things God hates. Listed first is pride because pride separates us from God. Pride is rebellion against God because it attributes to self the honor and glory due to God alone. Proud persons do not think it necessary to ask for forgiveness because they do not admit their sinful condition. God loves humility - recognizing our dependence on Him and recognizing others also as children of God.

What did Jesus teach regarding humility? Let's take a look;

**Matthew 18:1-4;** ***At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.***

**Matthew 20:25-27;** ***Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.***

Jesus taught that we must take the position of a child, or the lowly position of servant or slave. This informs that we must be obedient with regards to God's instruction manual, the bible. It requires that we consider others above self. This is what true humility looks like and requires.

Examples of humility – "Humility Hall of Fame"

Read Genesis 6:9-22 - **Noah**

Noah had a heart for God. He was alone in his belief. When all the world was corrupt and evil, when they had forgotten about God the creator, Noah continued to trust and believe.

Despite taking 120 years to complete the building of the ark, Noah did not relinquish. Instead, he did exactly as God had commanded.

Noah's obedience to God and steadfast faith in God are examples of the type of humility that God desires of us.

Read Numbers 12 - **Moses,** The Humblest of Men (Numbers 12:3)

Moses walked away from a life of luxury in Paroah's household; he risked life and limb by demanding that Pharoah release the Israelites; despite the bickering and disobedience of the Israelites during the 40 year journey through the wilderness he remained faithful to God's commands.

**The Greatest Example of Humility – Jesus**

Read Matthew 4:1-11 **Jesus' Tempted by the Devil**

Vv. 3-4 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'[b]"

Read Matthew 26:36-42 **Jesus' Submission to the Father**

Vv. 42 He (Jesus) went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

Read Matthew 27:45-50 **Jesus Gives His Life for the Redemption Mankind**

Vv. 50 - And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Jesus could have commanded an army of angels to come to his rescue or could simply have come down from the cross, but he stayed there and died for us all.