

I. Intro

A. Last week we tried to biblically define humility.

1. Watch out because the enemy will try everything to get you to reject what was taught last week.
2. It is a sense of our complete powerlessness without God.

B. Today, I want to answer the question, "What does humility before God look like?"

1. Andrew Murray

"We may know advanced believers, eminent teachers, and individuals of great spiritual experience who have not yet learned to embrace humility. We see this danger in Paul's situation. The inevitability of exalting himself was close at hand. He didn't yet know what it was to be nothing; to die, that Christ alone might live in him; to take pleasure in all that brought him low. It appears that this was the greatest lesson that he had to learn."

2. I believe Jesus, in Matthew 5:4-6, gives us a very clear roadmap to humility with God.

II. Recipe for humility

A. Three main ingredients - Mourning, meekness and appetite

1. Those who mourn

- a. Not just sad people, but those who take seriously their own sin and the sin around them
 - 1) Covering and defending sin are both responses rooted in arrogance.
 - 2) Anger and "righteous indignation" are both rooted in pride.

**There is a place for anger, but anger does not characterize the first intentional response of Jesus - who we are called to imitate.

b. We first mourn our sin and others' sin and see it how Jesus sees it, and we seek to treat it that way.

- 1) Luke 19:41-46
- 2) Jesus first mourned over the very sins and people who would call out for His crucifixion.

**Our initial response to sin is a deep and defining sadness.

c. Reaction to my sense of being poor in spirit

- 1) Options: Anger; Despondent; Mourn
- 2) Humility calls us to mourn our powerlessness but also demands that we don't live there.

d. Andrew Murray

"It is amazing how little humility is seen as the distinguishing feature of discipleship. In our preaching and in our living, in our daily interaction in our families and in our social life, as well as fellowship with other Christians, how easy it is to see that humility is not esteemed the cardinal virtue, the root from which grace can grow and the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with Jesus."

2. The Meek

a. Defining meekness

- 1) Not: resulting from being beaten down; always calm and under reacting
- 2) Used by the Greeks in reference to breaking a horse - great power under discipline

**Meekness takes the will and ability to act and places it under God's sovereignty. Meekness brings attention and glory to God because of our surrendered ability.

b. Psalm 37

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace."

- 1) King David, after much life lived as the most powerful man in Israel and the Ancient Near East ...
- 2) Psalm 37:5-11

c. Meekness characterized him

- 1) Trusts in God: God will do more and better than I; He is for me not against me.

- 2) Commits ways to God
 - a) Commit literally means "roll"
 - b) They roll all their stuff onto the Lord.
 - c) Quietly wait before God.
 - i. Not lazy; just free from frenzy
 - ii. Calm knowing God is faithful
 - iii. Steadfastness
- 3) Doesn't fret over the wicked
 - a) Doesn't need vindication
 - b) Doesn't waste time being angry or plotting revenge
 - c) Trust is in God ... Full circle

**"As we see how in their very nature pride and faith are irreconcilably at odds, we learn that faith and humility are at their root one, and that we can never have more of true faith than we have of true humility. It is possible to have strong intellectual convictions and assurance of the truth while pride is still in the heart, but it makes living faith, which has power with God, impossible. We have only to think for a moment what faith is. Is it not a confession of helplessness, the surrender to God that waits to let Him work?"

3. Hunger and thirst for righteousness

a. Remember Esau?

- 1) Appetite: we all have appetites. Food, physical needs, relationships, destruction
- 2) Esau lost everything because his appetite was out of control.

**Hungering and thirsting after righteousness is a spirit-filled replacement for what our appetites are under the sinful flesh.

b. Righteousness in view

- 1) Not the delights of the world nor a religious interaction with God
- 2) It is the satisfaction of a life whose passion is to know God in the struggle to be like Jesus right now.

**"The great test of whether the holiness we profess to seek or to attain, is truth and life, will be whether it be manifest in the increasing humility it produces. In the individual, humility is the one thing needed to allow God's holiness to dwell in and shine through him or her. ... Let all teachers of holiness, whether in the pulpit or on the platform, and all seekers after holiness, whether in the closet or the convention, take warning: There is no pride so dangerous, so subtle and insidious, as the pride of holiness."

c. How it works

- 1) Matthew 5:3-5 = emptying
- 2) Matthew 5:7-9 = filling
- 3) The calling of Jesus is to empty ourselves so that He can fill us with what's better - it is the redirecting of our appetite (mercy, purity, and peace).

**This is how we pursue humility before God, by pursuing His righteousness!

B. The flow of humility

1. When confronted with sin (my own or others) there is a deep sadness over it because it separates from God and blinds from truth.
 - a. If we skip mourning over sin, we miss the heart of Christ.
 - b. The heart of Christ is not against sin, but for salvation.
2. When approaching sin, we take our ability to act and place it under God's sovereignty.
 - a. Meekness is not an emotionally charged and out of control reaction contrary to the examples we've been given in the church (see Moses).
 - b. Meekness is the powerful, passionate, Holy Spirit controlled response to sin in order to seek salvation.
3. We can do this by redirecting our appetite to seeking God's righteousness first.
 - a. Are you more focused on others' sin or on God's standards established and obeyed in your life?
 - b. Are you more concerned with being right than people finding Jesus?

III. Challenge

Evaluate your response to sin.

1. In you
2. In others
3. In the world