

Humility, Integrity, and Sensitivity

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I. Introduction.

A. In Old Testament times, God was so wounded as to be ‘stunned silent’ by His children, Israel.

1. Malachi 3:15—the Israelite’s theology had become so warped that they said, ‘blessed are the proud.’
2. God did not speak for four hundred years after that.
3. The first Word of God arrived on the scene as Jesus Christ.

B. Forecast.

1. Humility is the evidence of a person’s value of God.
2. Integrity is the evidence of a person’s value of himself or herself.
3. Sensitivity is the evidence of a person’s value of other people.
4. Forms the acronym H.I.S.

C. The Scripture’s testimony:

1. John the Baptist said, “He must increase, and I must decrease.”
 - a. God cannot be made bigger than He is, but we can make him more prominent.
2. Paul was growing in humility as he recognized himself as a great sinner.

II. Content.

D. Jesus’ first sermon.

1. Humility.

- a. Matthew 5:3—blessed are the poor in spirit.
- b. There is a promise here: the kingdom of heaven and earth received.
 - 1) 1 Corinthians 3:21.
 - 2) 2 Corinthians 6:10.
 - 3) Our ability to enjoy life is not a matter of our net worth.

4) If we move upward in life, it should only be in contentment that we do so.

5) God will do in our lives exactly the opposite that we want him to do.

c. Principle: Humility is the evidence of a person's value of God.

1) The five "I wills" of Satan in Isaiah 14 is contrasted to the five "down steps" of Jesus in Philippians 2.

2) Meekness is not weakness—it is controlled strength.

3) We ought to encourage people to get involved in other ministries.

a) Dr. Halbertson: In the Middle East Christianity was a relationship, in Greece it became a philosophy, in Rome it became an institution, in Europe it became a culture, in America it has been an enterprise—this needs to go full circle back to relationship.

b) When we get involved in other's ministries God will revel in our stewardships; we need to forgo our sense of ownership.

4) The only thing this inheritance takes is humility.

5) The AIDs virus of the body of Christ is pride.

a) You nurture the immune system through the Word of God, prayer through it, and obedience.

b) Prayer and obedience is the core of the digestive system of the believer.

4. Integrity.

a. Matthew 5:6—blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

b. The litmus test of all acceptable human behaviors is always doing what the Father wills. (John 8:29)

c. We are inclined to ignore long term consequences. (1 Corinthians 3:13)

d. Principle: God is willing to agree to any price that we put on ourselves.

1) Judas sold himself.

2) Esau sold his birthright for a momentary pleasure.

e. Matthew 5:8—blessed are the pure in heart.

- 1) Not sinlessness, but an inner inclination to pursue an honest relationship with the Father and with the family.
- 2) Seeing God is not a physical experience, but seeing God is constant awareness of the Spirit that gives victory to sin.
- 3) Luke 22:15—"I have longed to take Passover with you."
 - a) The Savior longs to fellowship with us.
 - b) Psalm 86:11—give me an undivided heart.

f. The real value that is to be placed on us is the blood of Christ, not a piece of silver.

g. Humility is a person without pride. Integrity is a person without price. Sensitivity is a person without prejudice.

5. Sensitivity.

- a. Matthew 5:4—blessed are those who mourn.
- b. One of the best things that Job's friends did was to come, cry, and shut up.
- c. Society either denies pain or anesthetizes it.
- d. Suffering is the coronary artery of the heart of God.
- e. Knowing Christ personally and experiencing his power. (Philippians 3:10)
- f. Matthew 5:7—blessed are the merciful.
 - 1) James 2:13—there will be no mercy for those who do not show mercy.
 - 2) The problem is the Jonah syndrome; we want people to get what is coming to them.
- g. We prefer the narcotic of denial rather than the pain of coming to true peace.
 - 1) Peace at any price is not peace.
 - 2) We have to work at it.
 - 3) Romans 12:18—you give peace your best effort.

III. Closing thoughts.

A. Micah 6:8—Do justice (integrity), love mercy (sensitivity), and walk humbly.

1. A summary of Jesus' first sermon.

B. The seven statements of Jesus on the cross.

1. Three are directed towards God—evidence of humility.
2. Two are statements of fact—evidences of integrity.
3. Two are directed towards other people—evidences of sensitivity.

C. Jesus had the same three things in mind in His first sermon as He did his last words.

D. There are times when we say “Father,” times when we say “My God,” and times when we come around finally to say “Father” again.

Application questions:

1. The speaker claims that Jesus first sermon is essentially about humility, integrity and sensitivity. In what ways are these values related? How are they distinct?

2. Having a personal relationship with Jesus is highlighted throughout the message. What role does having this relationship take in attaining the aforementioned virtues?

3. What steps can you take to foster humility, integrity and sensitivity in your own life? List some goals for the near future. Set some objectives to reach those goals. How can you stay accountable in this process?
