

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus Outside the Box - Humility

Icebreakers:

1. If you could have changed one thing about yourself as a teen-ager, what would it be?
2. When you were growing up, did you feel secure or insecure in who you were? (Why?)
3. Why is low self-esteem sometimes mistaken for humility? (Why is low self-esteem unhealthy?)

Background: Jesus was at a dinner where the guests were vying for the most prestigious places to sit. He tells the gathering a parable. In the parable Jesus points out that if you claim a seat of honor and then are moved by the host to make room for an even more important person, you might end up being humiliated.

- **Luke 14:7-11 (NKJV)**

⁷ So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸ "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; ⁹ and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Digging Deeper: How would you define humility? Most secular dictionaries define humility along these lines: *Humility is the quality of not being proud because you are aware of your bad qualities.*

- I think that most secular dictionaries miss the mark on this one. I think that C.S. Lewis sends us in the right direction for understanding Biblical humility. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less."
- **Biblical Humility begins to form when we love God more than ourselves and others at least as much as we love ourselves.**
- How would you define Biblical humility?

Verse 11 of our text: Jesus gives us a Kingdom Principle. "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Let's look at the subject of humility through the "eyes" of scripture.

- Who is the one who will exalt us? (When does this happen?)

Two New Testament writers refer to Proverbs 3:34.

James 4:6 "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5 "God resist the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

1. What does God resisting the proud look like?
2. What does it mean when it states that God "gives grace to the humble?"

1 Peter 5:6 "Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

1. Once again, we have the idea that God will exalt us (in due time) if we humble ourselves.
2. How can we humble ourselves?

Wrap-up: I think that humbling ourselves starts with confessing our faults ("sins" in some translations) to one another. James 5:16. Confession starts with an internal understanding of your personal faults, failures and sin. Further, it is accepting the responsibility for things you have said and done

- **The Benefits of Humility**

1. It puts you on God's side
2. Makes you more "real"
3. Allows others to like you
4. Gives you freedom to be wrong
5. Allows you to admit faults
6. Allows you to submit to others
7. Helps you "hear" others
8. Helps you become less selfish
9. Helps produce unity through peace
10. Brings God joy