

Answers to Sermon Notes

Life Action Redux/Warm Up #1: "Humility"

Numbers 12:3, Hebrews 11:23-28

4/24/22

1. It should come as no surprise to any of us that **humility** lies at the center of **godliness**.
 - a. Humility is something we greatly **value**, and the need to be humble (rather than **prideful**) is something we often **remind** both ourselves and others about.
2. It may, however, come as a **great** surprise to many of us that **Moses** should be held up as the greatest **example** of humility – at least in the day in which he lived.

³ *Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.* (Numbers 12:3)

- a. For he was such a **strong leader**.
 - i. His **confrontation** of Pharaoh.
 - ii. His **emotional** and **extreme** response to the golden calf affair.
 - a. **Angrily smashing** the tablets on the ground.
 - b. Burning and **grinding** the golden calf into powder, **spreading** it in the stream and **forcing** the people to drink it.
 - c. Leading a group of Levites to go throughout the camp **killing** 3,000 at the invitation, "Who is on the **Lord's** side? Come to **me**."
 - iii. He was always in **charge** and was clearly a man of **action**.
- b. There are times, however, when what appears to be the, "**worst** example," is actually the best example, for it **corrects** our preconceived notions about the topic in question.

²³ *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.* ²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,* ²⁵ *choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.* ²⁶ *He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.* ²⁷ *By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.* ²⁸ *By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.* (Hebrews 11:23-28)

3. Though Moses is not described here with the word, **humble**, he is described in ways that help us understand what **humility** is.
 - a. A humble person's **fear** is well-placed.
 - i. Moses was a **God**-Fearer rather than a **Man**-Fearer.
 - a. Which seems to be a **family** trait. (vs. 23, 27)
 - ii. The fear of God is sometimes **confusing**. (Exodus 20:20)
 - a. But, in the proper sense, it simply means to be a **true worshiper**. (Ex. 33:12 – 34:9)

1. Regardless of the **sufferings** that come from it. (vs. 25-26)
2. “with the **people** of God.”
 - b. Humility **lives** where one is on his **face** before **God**.
- iii. So, if one is a Man-Fearer, it does not matter how **soft-spoken**, self-deprecating, or **agreeable** one is; one is not humble.
- b. A humble person’s **focus** is well-placed. (vs. 24-27)
 - i. Turning away from the **pleasures**, treasures, and **honors** of this world.
 - ii. Turning toward, and keeping one’s eyes on:
 - a. the one who is **invisible**,
 - b. the **reward**.
 - iii. A humble person is **seeking first** the kingdom of God. (Matthew 6:31-33)
 - a. And **content** in the basic provisions of God. (I Timothy 6:3-10)
 1. If you can say, “**yes**,” to something while honestly on your **face** before God, then it passes the test.
 2. Every, “yes,” must somehow be an **act** of **worship**.
 - iv. So, if one is not **seeking** first the kingdom of God and is not **content** in the basic provisions of God, one is not **humble**.
- c. A humble person’s **faith** is well-placed. (vs. 23-28)
 - i. Faith is primarily **active**, not **passive**. (Hebrews 11:4, 7, 8, 9, 17, 20, 21, 22...)
 - ii. This is the source of a humble person’s **leadership** and **strength**.
 - a. Knowing what God has **directed**.
 - b. Pursuing it with **confidence**.
 1. **Doubt** is not a characteristic of humility.
 - iii. And it is this **active**, humble, faith, that makes us **useful** to God and a **blessing** to others. (vs. 28)
 - a. Because Moses acted in **humble** faith, many were **saved**.
4. It should come as no surprise to any of us that **humility** lies at the heart of **godliness**.
 - a. Does true humility lie at the center of **yours**?
 - i. Is your **fear** well-placed?
 - ii. Is your **focus** well-placed?
 - iii. Is your **faith** well-placed?