



# Dressed in Humility

April 30-May 6, 2023

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## **MAIN POINT**

Your humility is intricately connected to your identity.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Who is the most famous person you've ever met?  
Share that experience with the group.

After talking with them, how did you feel about them?  
Was their personality and character consistent with what you had imagined?  
Why or why not?

Meeting someone famous can be a very gratifying experience, though it can also be disappointing. We may not be aware of the expectations we have about famous people until we meet them—some may be surprisingly humble, or some may be so pompous we wish we'd never met them. Either way, meeting someone famous is in large part a unique experience because, in that moment, we realize they are normal human beings just like us. Fame has a way of making someone feel “other” to us; yet in reality, no person is better than another.

In chapter 14 of his gospel, Luke shares about Jesus telling a story to a group of people who were either starstruck with Jesus or looked at Jesus' presence as an opportunity to become famous in their own right. It was that latter group—the ones seeking to make a name for themselves by looking important to everyone else—to whom Jesus' parable was directed. Jesus' goal was to show His listeners that one's identity is not found in self-exaltation, but in humility.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

**READ [LUKE 14:7-11](#).**

According to these verses, why should followers of Christ be humble?  
What was Jesus' motivation for teaching His disciples about humility?

When have you encountered situations similar to the wedding party in Jesus' parable?  
In those situations, how did you (or the other people involved) respond?

We live in a culture that encourages people to do whatever it takes to get ahead. However, in God's kingdom, the person who humbles himself/herself will be exalted by God. Of course, Jesus did not advise adopting a veneer of humility to gain honor from God—to do so would be seeking the Father out of selfish ambition. Humble people draw their sense of self-worth from their relationship with God. They don't seek or need honors bestowed by humans. They know who they are—God's children—and are secure in that confidence. Such solid self-identity carries with it the strength to serve others in Christ's spirit.

## **READ [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8](#).**

What would it mean for you to have the attitude of Christ?

Read [Mark 10:43-45](#). How did Jesus describe His own attitude?  
Why is serving others necessary if you want to display humility?

What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become human?  
What did He give up in doing so? What did we gain from His actions?

Though culture often views humility as a weakness, in what ways did Jesus' humility convey and require strength?

What are some specific examples of Jesus' humility in Scripture? Consider the following: Birth—[Luke 2:16](#); Temptation—[Matthew 4:7](#); Possessions—[Matthew 8:20](#); Hunger and fatigue—[Mark 3:20](#); Love for the unlovely—[Matthew 8:2-3](#); Obedience—[Matthew 26:39](#); [John 6:38](#).

Paul pointed to Christ's love for others and His obedient service to God as examples for his Philippian friends. Christians who follow Christ's example and exhibit self-sacrificial love toward other believers and willing obedience to God help promote their churches' unity. We are to live with an attitude of humility as we relate to others. With a healthy, balanced view of ourselves, we neither think too highly nor too little of ourselves. With that wholesome attitude, we can serve others effectively.

## **READ [PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11](#).**

For what reason did the Father exalt the Son, according to these verses?

How does this passage challenge society's definition of success?

God's exaltation of Christ is because of His death of humiliation on the cross. Our Lord did nothing out of selfishness, nor was He disobedient at any time to His Father's will. He did not seek His own glory, but the glory of His Father. In this passage Paul lifted up Christ's self-sacrificial love for others and His obedient service to God as an example to the Philippians.

## **APPLICATION**

If we are to be the church Christ wants in our community, what types of sacrifices should we be prepared to make?

What steps do you need to take this week to become more Christlike?

What is one specific way you can imitate Christ's humility this coming week?

## **PRAYER**

Ask God to help you reflect daily the qualities of love, generosity, humility, and faith as you live out the gospel and, by doing so, others would be drawn to Jesus.

## **COMMENTARY**

### **LUKE 14:7-11**

**14:6-7.** They remained silent again, so he told another parable. He selected the contents of the parable on the basis of what was happening in the banquet. Most guests always sought out the best seat nearest the host.

**14:8-10.** The parable is actually in the form of an advice column: “You are invited to a wedding reception. You are among the early arrivals. How do you choose where to sit? Normally, you take the best seat, the one closest to the host, don’t you? Listen to me. Do not do that. Why? You have not seen the entire guest list. Someone with VIP credentials may show up later. The host will have to seat that person in the choice place. He may ask you to move down the table to make way for this important guest. All the places being occupied, you will have to move to the worst seat in the house. What an indignity! You will be humiliated.”

“Listen! Here is a better strategy,” Jesus continued. “When you arrive early, seek out the worst seat in the house. Then the host will come and ask you to move up closer to him. You will gain honor in front of all the guests.”

**14:11.** The meaning of all this is simple. If you try to gain honor for yourself, you will be humbled and humiliated. But if you show humility, then you will receive great honor. So act with humility, not pride, in every situation.

### **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

The apostle then gave the Philippians a vivid illustration of the perspective he intended them to have. He showed them Christ. Verses 5 through 8 paint a poignant picture of the humility Christ revealed in His incarnation and His substitutionary death. Paul urged them to exchange their selfish motives for the Savior’s attitude. While Christ has all cause for glorying, being God Himself, He willingly surrendered Himself for the needs of others. The Son of God did not seek His own advantage, that is, He refused to ignore others’ needs. The passage states that Jesus Christ made himself nothing. The result was that the Savior set aside His glory to minister grace and mercy to those who are most undeserving of such blessings. Assuming the form of a slave, the Lord placed Himself under the authority of His Father. The focus of the Son was to please the Father, and in doing so He sacrificed Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.