



THEY'RE HUMBLE

January 24, 2021

Matthew 5:5

Pastor Daniel Hahn

MESSAGE NOTES

Toxins of pride:

- entitlements about how things should be to our benefit
- compulsion to look better than others
- anger at God when he doesn't do things our way
- indignation with others when they don't do what we want
- unwillingness to forgive or offer grace when people fail
- using people to our own ends
- selfishness about money or accolades or some other commodity we want

Antidotes God uses to save us from ourselves:

- humbling circumstances and failures
- difficulties we can't solve
- people we can't control
- prayers that don't get answered the way we expected
- things we don't understand about God or the Universe
- losses that remind us of our limitations
- all sorts of other ways we're reminded that we're not God

Meek. Humble. Gentle. Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to Him is not a pointed finger but open arms. The meaning of the word "lowly" overlaps with that of "gentle," together communicating a single reality about Jesus's heart. The point in saying that Jesus is lowly is that He is accessible. For all His resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, His supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ. No prerequisites. No hoops to jump through.

— Dane Ortland, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*

1. A true alignment with Jesus will always result in a logical sort of personal humility.

*I hear addicts talk about the shakes and panic attacks and the highs and lows of resisting their habit, and to some degree I understand them because I have had habits of my own, but no drug is so powerful as the drug of self. No rut in the mind is so deep as the one that says I am the world, the world belongs to me, all people are characters in my play. There is no addiction so powerful as self-addiction. — Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz**

2. Humility creates a different mindset about my strengths and weaknesses (overall self-perception).

True humility could best be defined as seeing and accepting ourselves as God sees and accepts us. True humility recognizes that we are finite creations of an Almighty God and that He has created us with many abilities. But it also recognizes our failures and our needs. True humility recognizes our strengths as well as our weaknesses and is not preoccupied with either. People with a solid sense of self-esteem do not have to keep evaluating their worth. Because they have a settled identity, they get on with life and serving others. — Bruce Narramore

It is always upon human weakness and humiliation, not human strength and confidence, that God chooses to build His Kingdom; and that He can use us not merely in spite of our ordinariness and helplessness and disqualifying infirmities, but precisely because of them. — James Stewart, Scottish Preacher

3. A humble mindset values the elevation and encouragement of others over self-preoccupation and personal comfort.

So how do we grow in this?

- Assess your own thinking about things: Is it self-focused? Self-protective? What makes you angry or anxious? Those are like warning lights.
- Notice how God might be training you in humility right now?
- Practice the art of thinking more of others — asking good questions, listening intently, empathizing well ... contributing help.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was one thing you remember from this past weekend at ENCOUNTER?
- What comes to mind for most people when they hear the word, meek? How does this differ from the Biblical use of the word?
- Think of a person you would classify as generally very humble. What is it about them that makes you think of them that way?
- What are some of the ways people strive to appear self-reliant, important or exceptional?
- How might social media fuel pride and self-preoccupation?
- Why do you think God puts such a high value on humility?
- In what ways might wealth and power lead to toxic pride?
- As you reflect on the message this past weekend, how would you say that those who are truly humble and gentle will be the ones inheriting the earth? What does that mean?
- What Biblical characters are described in terms of being meek, humble or gentle?
- If someone asked you how they could grow in the quality of humility, how would you respond?
- What are a few specific practices you could implement this week that would help you grow in gentleness, restraint, or humility?