

## The Power of Humility

### Opening Prayer:

**King Jesus, I am here to worship You.**

Let your love heal my heart.

Let your presence shape my character

Let your word build my faith.

I may have walked in anxious—but I receive Your peace.

I may have walked in apathetic—but I receive Your passion and holy zeal.

I may have walked in afraid—but I receive Your courage and faith.

I may have walked in alone—but I am surrounded by family.

**Jesus, in You, I have all I need.**

Ignite in me a burning passion for Your house.

Deepen my understanding of Your Word.

Expand my love for Your people.

**Today, I choose to follow Jesus.**

I choose to be present, vulnerable, and open.

I choose obedience over comfort.

I choose to share my faith, not hide it.

**My life belongs to You.**

Your kingdom come; Your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven! Amen!

**Welcome: College students/ 252/ Back to school Drive**

**Read: John 13:1-17, Catching the wave- humility, 1 Peter 5:5**

### 1. What is humility?

**Allen's Definition:** Humility is lowering myself in order to lift someone else up. In this moment, Jesus lowers himself, to lift the disciples up.

**Explain:** Takes off his rabbinical robe, which signified his elevated status, knells before the disciples and washes their feet. (dirt, sweat, feces) Peter is beside himself. He is not being proud. In his mind, if anyone is going to have their feet washed, it should be Jesus.

**Illustrate:** Jesus constantly lowers himself, Triumphant entry, riding a donkey.

**Argue:** Phil 2:5-11, Micah 6:8, "Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God." The only way to walk with God is to walk in humility.

**Explain: Judas-** Pride opened the door. This is a good warning for us all. Judas has been following Jesus for three years. He is in the inner circle. He is treasurer. If the Devil can tempt Jesus and if the Devil can deceive Judas, then I am vulnerable. Pride is the Devil's doorway.

**Pride is elevating myself to push others down.** Judas, in his pride, is attempting to force Jesus to follow his agenda. Jesus does not follow us, we follow Jesus.

### 2. Why is humility important?

**Explain:** Try to imagine the impact this moment had on these men. From this moment on, it will be more difficult to be proud. Humility transforms culture. Jesus is teaching them how to lead.

**Illustrate:** In the best-selling book, *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins identified companies who were good but suddenly broke through and become great. These companies outperformed their competitors by an average of 700% over a 15-year period. The goal of his research was to identify the secret sauce. Did they get lucky or were there common characteristics of all great companies. The first characteristic they identified in great companies was **humble leadership**.

**Quote:** “We were surprised, shocked really, to discover the type of leadership required for turning a good company into a great one. Compared to high-profile leaders with big personalities who make headlines and become celebrities, the good to great leaders seem to have come from Mars. Self-effacing, quiet, reserved, even shy- these leaders are a paradoxical blend of **personal humility and professional will**.” Jesus has humility and the will...

In his follow up book, *How the Mighty Fall*, Collins and his team set out to determine how do great companies fall. Number one reason; **pride**.

**Argue: Proverbs 16:18**, Pride comes before destruction. You cannot fall from your knees.

**Argue: 1 Peter 5:5b-6**, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. So humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.”

**Apply: Humility will strengthen every relationship in your life.** Jesus is building culture.

### 3. What are some examples of humility?

**Explain:** Jesus says, I am your teacher and Lord. As I have served you, as I have washed your feet, I want you to serve each other. Jesus wants us to humble ourselves, to lift others up.

**Illustrate:** Corinth Baptism- Let’s lower ourselves and lift others up. **Act of kindness cards**

- **Begins with Jesus each day.**
  - o Top priority/1st, worship, prayer, surrender, **begin your day on your knees**
- **With People**
  - o Serve- How can I help?
  - o Listen- being careful not to speak too fast
  - o Take responsibility- be quick to admit when I am wrong, don’t blame others
  - o Patient when others are wrong
  - o Giving credit to those who deserve it
  - o Seek feedback/ Teachable

### 4. Where does humility come from?

**Explain:** Humility is displayed publicly but it is cultivated privately. Look what John says, **verse 3**, “Jesus knew the Father had given Him authority over everything, that he came from God and that He would return to God.” Jesus knew who he was and his identity was grounded in the Father. Time with Jesus produces humility. We are only impressed with ourselves when we have yet to see Jesus.

**Illustrate: Basketball story-** I was not nearly as good as I thought but I did not know. If I am comparing myself to a group of ordinary guys, I was pretty good. If I compare myself to someone who could really play, I was average.

**Argue: Isaiah 6, Hebrews 12:2**, fix your eyes on Jesus.

**1 Peter 5:5b-6**, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. So humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.”

- We can choose to walk in humility or

## Monthly Practice: Spiritual Gifts

- We can experience humiliation
- There will be no pride in heaven.

**Apply:** Be with Jesus, not a Jesus of our imagination, but Jesus as revealed in scripture.

### **Communion- Luke 22:14-30**

#### **Reflection**

- **Am I willing to lower myself, to lift Jesus and others up?**

#### **Prayer**

**King Jesus, I am here to worship You.**

Let your love heal my heart.

Let your presence shape my character

Let your word build my faith.

I may have walked in anxious—but I receive Your peace.

I may have walked in apathetic—but I receive Your passion and holy zeal.

I may have walked in afraid—but I receive Your courage and faith.

I may have walked in alone—but I am surrounded by family.

**Jesus, in You, I have all I need.**

Ignite in me a burning passion for Your house.

Deepen my understanding of Your Word.

Expand my love for Your people.

**Today, I choose to follow Jesus.**

I choose to be present, vulnerable, and open.

I choose obedience over comfort.

I choose to share my faith, not hide it.

**My life belongs to You.**

Your kingdom come; Your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven!

Amen!