

WEEK 3

PRIDE

Anyone who's ever read the Old Testament knows how overwhelming it can be. It's almost impossible to keep up with the 613 laws it contains! In addition to laws like the Ten Commandments, you have laws about fabrics, laws about sacrifices, laws about foods, and laws about worship. The sheer number of commands makes one thing clear—there's no way we can do this on our own! Cataloguing the laws would be hard enough. Keeping them is another matter entirely. The more we read the Law, the more humble we should be.

Unfortunately, the Pharisees in Jesus' day saw the Law more as a cause for pride. After all, they had kept all of God's commands (well, at least on their scorecard). In fact, their traditions and rituals ensured their absolute purity. It's estimated that the Pharisees added over 1,500 codes and qualifications to the Law. But, in focusing on the quantity of the laws, they had missed out on the qualities those laws were trying to cultivate. They offered the right sacrifices, but they did it with the wrong kind of heart.

Luke 11 tells us of a time when Jesus confronted pride directly. What they practiced wasn't piety; it was posturing. The things they thought were drawing them closer to God were actually pushing them away from Him. That's because pride divides. It separates us from one another as we try to make ourselves look better, and it separates us from God by convincing us we don't need Him. If we think we have everything, why would we reach for Him? At Southeast, MOVE calls us to humility—to worship with dependence, to serve with open hands, to give with surrender, and to go with grace. When we let go of pride, we create space for God to move in us and through us. The real question is, are we willing to move aside so He can move in?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Luke 11:37-54. How did Jesus confront the Pharisees in this passage? What warning can we take away from His strong words here?

What are some of the things in life you are proud of? How might those things give you an opportunity to practice humility?

Have you ever known anyone who was truly humble? What characteristics stick out when you think of that person?

How does recognizing our need for a Savior create humility within us? In what ways does our need for grace help us practice humility?

Read Philippians 2:3-11. How does Jesus serve as the ultimate example of humility? What would it look like for you to live out His example in your day-to-day life?

What would it look like for you to move with Jesus today? Is there a step of humility you've been hesitating to take?

Read This Week's Text
LUKE 11:37-54

Check Out This
Week's Video



