

The Word became flesh
Part 4

Lessons on humility

1/1/2012

I. Humility is disarming

After Jesus baptism there was no press conference or sermon. He just disappeared for 40 days. A day or two after his return, Jesus is just strolling by and John – gripped with excitement – seizes his own pupils by the shoulders and says, “Look! Look! There he is!”

“The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked,

“What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.”
John 1:35-39

Oh, come on – is that really what you want to ask?
Their Master (John has bet everything on this man) Don’t you think they would ask something like:
“Are you really the Son of God?”
“Are you really the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?”

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Jesus sees that he is being followed and in his typical Humble fashion asks: “Can I help you?” and these disciples of John ask the lamest question: “Where are you staying?” Jesus disarms their

fumbling awe by saying, “Come and see.” Not “oh, here and there,” not “Over on the other side of town.” C’mon, I’ll show ya.”

II. Humility is inviting

- Andrew races off to find Peter
- Philip runs to get Nathanael
- Jesus taps James and John up in Galilee.

And the most famous band of brothers ever begins to coalesce.

We have all heard the stories but missed the miracle. God begins his greatest work by including us.

Can you name on world leader who has done anything even close to this?

What were the names of Buddha’s disciples? Gandhi’s? George Washington? Yet, most people know of the “disciples

Jesus has invited us to share in his:

1. Work

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” John 4:34

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:36

2. Glory

“I have given them the glory that you gave me.” John 17:22

3. Suffering

Aren’t the crown and the cross the noblest part of his whole life, the very thing we most worship him for?

“...the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings.” Phil 3:10

III. Humility is demanding

The humility of Jesus shines through so brilliantly when we consider the day in and day out patience he showed to this little group of knuckleheads.

We are talking about the patience of a Kindergarten Teacher with a group 20 – 5 year olds.

Let's drop in on a private conversation between Jesus and the disciples.

The feeding of the 4,000 using 7 loaves and “a few small fish” Why is the word small included here? Would it have been easier if they were large fish? The disciples watched as it was multiplied. They had a front row seat to it all.

Then the religious leaders approached Jesus and demanded a sign. Jesus told them to forget it. He then turns and warns the boys about the infectious corruption of the religious fog.

“When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. “Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn't bring any bread.” Matthew 16:5-7

OK – even if Jesus was talking about bread, how could they possible worry about bread anymore? They had just finished serving 4,000 people with 7 baskets full left over.

I love the next line:

“Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, ‘You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? V.8

“Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or

the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” V.9-12

Humility requires:

1. Meeting people where they are
2. Reminding them of the greatness of God
3. Never insulting those who are putting forth the effort.