

Bible Study 2

This is the second in the 6 part series bible study using the first verse of Matt Redman's song "When the music fades"

.....And I simply come....

"In reality there is perhaps no one of our natural Passions so hard to subdue as pride. Disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive, and will every now and then peep out and show itself...For even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility." -

Benjamin Franklin

"Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24

"I surrender"

In the world, these words are rarely spoken. We are always taught to fight, to keep trying, to win. In the military, these words declare defeat. In sports, they result in a loss. In illness, they can mean death. In life, they mean failure.

But... in the context of selfish ambition and the pride of life, these words are the beginnings to true life and intimacy with Christ.

In order to understand what it means to "surrender" we have to look at the One who set the perfect example—Jesus.

"Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand or cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form." Philippians 2:5-7

That's amazing..... He didn't cling onto any status, He made himself nothing a mere slave!
- We have a lot to learn...well I know I have

Later on in verse 9 it says that God honored Jesus greatly for having a humble attitude and letting go of his rights. But we often act and think exactly the opposite from the way Jesus did. We assume in order to gain honour we need to demand the rights we think we deserve. But God reminds us that when we humble ourselves and are willing to die to our rights, he will raise us up (in his way and time) and present to us true honour. Just look at David, he was the least of his family yet was used by God mightily and was named "a man after Gods own heart" and it was said of him that he will "do what ever I ask of him" Acts 13:22. David was obedient in the small things of looking after sheep, as mentioned God exalts the humble and crushes the proud, He later made David Shepard a nation!

Its time for us the church to humble ourselves and surrender to God and become a "nothing" of the world for the sake of being a true worshipper in the Kingdom.

But that comes at a cost...are you ready?

Questions:

(They are quite challenging and confrontational and I'm not going to apologise for them)

What areas of your life do you need to surrender to God? In other words where do you struggle with pride?

Does your life show dependency on God or can you do it on your own?

Do you come to church for you or for God?

Who do you really worship - you or God?

Are you completely reliant on God when your leading as part of the worship band or do you just rely on the leader or your own ability to play/sing?

Do you pray like it all depends on God?

Do you probe for comments of affirmation in an unhealthy way after you have led? Another words do you look to "feed" your pride.

What can you put in your life to guard yourself from pride?

How will approach this Sunday differently?

One of the words of that's been translated as "worship" in the English Bible is the Hebrew (OT) word *shachah* and the Greek (NT) word *proskuneo*. Both these words mean "to bow down." The Hebrew word *shachah* is used of "bowing" or "prostrating oneself", often before a superior or before God. In the King James Version, it is translated by a number of different English words, including: "worship" (99 times), "bow" (31 times), "bow down" (18 times), "obedience" (9 times), and "reverence" (5 times).

The Greek word *proskuneo* comes from the Greek words *pros*, "to" or "toward," and *kuneo*, "to kiss." It literally means to kiss the hand to (toward) someone in token of reverence, and among the Orientals, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence. Hence, in the New Testament it means kneeling or prostration to do homage or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication.

I think to bowing is a real pride killer, why not "worship" God now by maybe addressing some of those questions while bowing before your God.

Here are some other Bible verses on humility

Psalm 138:6 Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.

Psalm 149:4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honour.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

Isaiah 66:2 Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, 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.

Matthew 20:26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

Luke 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Romans 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Galatians 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

1 Peter 5:5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.