

SERMON NOTES TEMPLATE:

Date:23/3/2024

Preacher: Sam Toms

Sermon Title: - Pilgrimage – Living close to God in humility

Bible Reading: Psalm 131

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- 1) Humility is a choice**
- 2) That GROUNDS us in Reality**
- 3) And calls us to respond**
- 4) Humility – WHO WE REALLY ARE.**
Pride is a lack of revelation of who God is
- 5) choose your hope**

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King David writes Psalm 131, outlining one of the significant building blocks to the people of God living and operating in a state of being 'content' and 'deeply satisfied'.

Both James 4:10 , Micah 6:8 as well as many other passages in the Bible describe Humility as something that we choose to do. We can easily think about humility as just a posture of our hearts. The Bible speaks of it as both an intentional act of our will and also something that has a behavioural action associated. Phil 2:8 – Is an amazing demonstration of the action of humility at work.

Through humility we can be at rest. Our anxious hearts can find peace, purpose and fulfilment when we choose humility as an ongoing pursuit and a lifestyle. We no longer need to strive to become something or appear more than what we truly are. There is incredible freedom in this.

Q. What would change in your life if you didn't have to prove yourself to anyone?

Humility – is taking hold of how God sees us. This is not thinking poorly of ourselves, or thinking we are bigger than we really are. Humility grounds us in REALITY. There is incredible blessing in being realistic about our situation. Humility grounds us in our need for Jesus as saviour. That we cannot make ourselves right before God with human effort alone. We will never arrive at a perfect realisation of how God sees us.

Prayerfully consider, do you undervalue or overvalue yourself?

What identity messages do you need to apply to yourself? Maybe as a group, you could speak truth, life and wholeness into each others life and bring about a corrective thinking. This is an incredible opportunity to speak truth, and ground each other in humility and reality. Pride seeks to distort our identity. It seeks to mask our brokenness, it seeks to over compensate and hide how we truly see ourselves when no one else is around.

Pride also seeks to hide the character of God from us. Pride minimalizes the greatness of God, his power, his holiness and his perfect plan. Pride makes us bigger and more important and shrinks the significance of God in our lives. It is has often been stated that the size of Pride directly correlates to the quantity of prayer in our life. When we recognise through humility the core character traits of God, our naturally response is prayer and worship.

Knowing God is faithful, loving, powerful and for us are some of the significant names of God that effect our behaviour and how we relate to Him.

Consider the following names of God, then consider the names that are less appreciated in your life. How can pride be masking the reality of knowing God in this capacity?

1. **Elohim** - Genesis 1:1 - "God Almighty." This name emphasizes God's power and authority as the Creator of the universe. It reminds us of God's sovereignty and His ability to bring order out of chaos.
2. **Yahweh** - Exodus 3:14 - "I AM WHO I AM" - faithfulness, and unchanging character. Knowing Yahweh assures us of His constant presence and reliability in our lives.
3. **El Shaddai** - Genesis 17:1 - "God Almighty" all-sufficient and all-powerful
4. **Adonai** - Malachi 1:6 - "Lord" authority over all creation.
5. **Jehovah Jireh** - Genesis 22:14 - "The Lord Will Provide." provider and sustainer
6. **Jehovah Rapha** - Exodus 15:26 - "The Lord Who Heals." restoration and wholeness to our lives, whether in body, mind, or spirit.
7. **Jehovah Nissi** - Exodus 17:15 - "The Lord Is My Banner God fights for us
8. **Jehovah Shalom** - Judges 6:24 - "The Lord Is Peace. the source of true peace, both inwardly and outwardly. It reminds us that our ultimate peace comes from knowing and trusting in God, regardless of our circumstances.

Prayer for continual revelation of God's identity, which then informs our own identity.