

CP - 4/14/24

Acts 21:17–36 - Paul's Humility in Jerusalem

Sermon Outline

What is humility?

- Romans 12:3
- Philippians 2:5-11 — Humility explained and exemplified
 - Humility should be desired, but as soon as we think about it, it gets tainted with pride.
 - Humility is something we should grow in, but how are we humble?
 - Humility is not something you see in yourself because when you see it you lose it.
 - The more we grow in humility, the more we grow in recognition of our own pride.
 - Humility is not soft or spineless. It is rooted, grounded, and bold.

4 Truths about humility from Acts 21:17–36

1. Humility gives God the glory. (21:17–20a)

- “related one by one the things God had done”
- Of all people to be prideful, Paul was the chief.
- Pride doesn't always manifest itself in accolades and arrogance but in seeking the attention and affirmation of others.
- Paul says, “Look at what the Lord has done.”
- It wasn't about Paul; it was about Jesus.

2. Humility submits to leadership. (20b–25)

- Paul was not above the leadership of the other apostles and the elders.
- Good leaders know how to be lead.
- No man is above accountability and leadership.

3. Humility sacrifices personal freedoms for the sake of corporate unity. (26)

- Paul was willing to compromise for the sake of unity.
- He didn't compromise doctrine or go against his own conscience.
- Jews were in transition, and many still kept to “temple” worship with rituals and festivals until 70 AD when the Temple was destroyed.
- All of this is so the “weaker” brother would not be offended. (1 Corinthians 8)

4. Humility trusts God no matter the circumstance. (27–36)

- Paul knew that the road would be hard.
- Paul didn't flip out or lose his mind, but he stayed quiet and waited for his opportunity.
- Take what happens to you as from God and for an opportunity to testify of His goodness!

How to pursue humility:

1. Pray.
2. Long to see Jesus in the Scriptures.
3. Preach the gospel to yourself.
4. Serve others.

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Bible passage and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. How does Romans 12:3 supply us the definition of humility? Explain humility in your own words. How is Jesus our example of humility?
3. From Acts 21:17–36, what do we learn about humility? (See the 4 points in sermon outline)
4. Why is it important to see that Paul submitted to authority?
5. What are instances where one may sacrifice personal freedoms for the sake of unity?
6. How can we pursue humility without it becoming prideful?