

Family Dinner Discussion

So Loved - Week 2: "True Humility"

INTRO

(Question:) Imagine your best friend who isn't a Christian. How do you think his/her life would change if he/she started to follow Jesus?

(Transition:) Early Christians were viewed as strange, but intriguing. They were of notice particularly because of their commitments in two ethical areas: sex and money. They were known as sexually chaste and materially generous. This is a combination that draws attention because most people focus on one or neither. But Christians should not fit into the standard categories of the world. John the Baptist surely did not. As we read our text be thinking about this question: "Why was John so popular among his contemporaries?"

READ the texts from Mark and John aloud.

DISCUSS

- What do we learn about John the Baptist in these texts? Who was he? What was he like?
- How does John view himself? How does his view of himself square with Jesus' statements about him in Matthew 11:11-14? "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist....For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come."
- Do you think that John the Baptist has a false view of himself? Does he have a self-esteem problem?
- What is the solution to low self-esteem? What does the world suggest as the solution to low self-esteem?
- Read the quote by CS Lewis. What do you think about his description of true humility? Have you ever met someone who genuinely didn't care about what others thought? Not someone who is calloused and mean, but someone who is self-forgetful.
- Jesus says that John the Baptist is the greatest man who had ever lived until this point. What made him so great? How can we become fearless in our faithfulness to God and love toward other people?
- How does John the Baptist view Jesus?
- How does a high view of Jesus make us humble in all the right ways?

CONCLUDE & PRAY

John knew himself to be the one who prepares the way of the Lord. He knew Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This knowledge gave him hope and humility. He was humble because he knew that he was not sinless and not the Savior. He was hopeful because he knew there was a Savior. We need to expand and enlarge our vision of Jesus to become truly humble. When we know that Christ is our true and only hope, then we can let go of self-concern and lean into others-concern. We will be freed to do this not out of any sense of proving our worth, but out of knowing our worth comes from God who sent His Son to save us. Our service to others will be characterized by joy. Let us pray that this increasingly takes root in our lives for the glory of God and good of our neighbor.

Mark 1:4-6; John 1:19-31

English Standard Version (ESV)

Mark 1:4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

John 1:19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

Quote from *Mere Christianity* by CS Lewis

To get even near [humility], even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert. Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call "humble" nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what *you* said to *him*. If you dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.