

THE BIG IDEA: The Lost become found when humility leads to service.The Take-Off

- Have you ever been led by someone and the trip went absolutely perfect?
 - The directions that were given were clearly stated at the necessary times and they allowed input to be given about where to stop and where to keep going.
 - They had the map or device that would let them know exactly where they were going, but if they weren't completely sure, then they were able to ask what they needed to...
- Well, now that you have that circumstance I want you to think of a time where you had a leader who was not quite the leader that had encompassed all the attributes they needed?
 - I remember following a leader one time who was not quite the leader that needed to be in charge.
 - (Story about getting lost in Marrow Mountain)
- I have found it interesting that when the right leader leads, we begin to find ourselves imitating what we have seen.
- We all want to lead well, but how do we allow us lead when we are sharing with a lost world.
 - Do we let our nature of pointing out the wrong lead us to share,
 - Or, are we allowing the humility that God has given us to lead others to a place where they can know God.
- What place do we give humility in our lives?
 - Do we see humility as a necessary attribute to lead, or do we just see it as a unnecessary thing that we have?
- Today we will look at how humility leads in the process of seeing the lost get found.
- Let's look at **Luke 14:1-14**

1. Humility leads to healing.

- a. Jesus didn't just look at the man with dropsy (abnormal swelling of the body) and say "oh, it's the Sabbath, no help here."
 - i. Jesus humility to serve led Him to heal the man who was suffering.
- b. Look at the Pharisees...
 - i. They took their understanding of the Sabbath, which was ruled by many man-made laws, and tried to pridefully catch Jesus in a trap.
 - ii. They tried to place their laws on the one who created the Sabbath.
- c. Jesus not only healed the man, but also asked a question to challenge the Pharisees idea of the Sabbath.
- d. Understanding the Sabbath, and what it was created for (**Mark 2:27-28**), Jesus did not allow the pride of those trying to entrap Him, keep Him from doing the will of God.
 - i. How important is it to us that we not let the things of man, keep us from pursuing the lost?
- e. Humility in service, says that I will not allow man's ideas or traditions keep me from pursuing the lost in a way that allows Christ to bring them into a relationship with Himself.
- f. **Practically speaking**, Humility leads to many different areas of healing.
 - i. In the case of Luke 14:1-6, Humility of Jesus (not being prideful of the man-made traditions) led to healing of the man with dropsy.
- g. Humility also leads to other forms of healing as we see throughout scripture...
 - i. For instance, let's read **Philippians 2:1-8**...
 1. Here we see the necessity of humility in what Christ has done for us.(v. 5-8)
 2. We see the mind of humility we must let lead us when dealing with others. (v. 1-4)

2. Humility leads to honor.

- a. Luke 14:7-11, we see Jesus sharing a parable that was relevant to the Pharisees...
 - i. This was relevant to them, because Jesus in verse 7 noticed them taking the places of honor.

- b. Jesus was telling them the parable in order to make the glaring statement made in verse 11.
 - i. Jesus did not want the Pharisees to take pride in their position
 - 1. Instead He made it clear that whoever would glorify themselves would be humbled and those who humble themselves would be honored.
- c. I want you to think about this for a moment.
 - i. We spend our entire lives being led by successful people who say that you should get what is yours and take pride in your position.
 - ii. Jesus preaches a radically different message through His life and through these verses.
- d. So how does humility seek to see honor?
 - i. Jesus tells this parable and how one should conduct themselves at a feast, but it applies to our everyday life.
 - 1. We, as Christians, should not seek to see ourselves honored, but we should live in such a way that God is honored through our actions.
 - 2. For instance, when we want to see a loved one who does not know and is not known by God, we should share the love of Christ and His righteousness with them so that they can be honored to be called a Child of God.
 - ii. Humility seeks to see honor in our relationship with Christ.
 - 1. **1 Corinthians 6:20**, speaks to the fact that Christ has bought us with a price, therefore we should live in a way that honors and glorifies Him.
 - 2. We then see in **Galatians 5:13**, which we have been honored and given freedom, which is to be used to serve others.
 - a. How we live our lives directly speaks to the lost world about how we value our soul and the one whom bought us.
 - b. We must understand that when we want to see the lost get found, God desires to use us in a way that honor's Him and draws the lost to want to know Him.
 - iii. Christ set the example for Humility that seeks to see honor for others in **John 3:16-17**.
 - 1. Jesus did not come into the world to just show us that we were not able to measure up to His standards, but He came to show us that He is the way to be honored and set right with God.
 - a. Without Christ, we understand that we have no chance of having eternal life.
 - i. Why?
 - 1. Because **John 17:3** says that eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ whom God sent.

After Jesus shared this parable that taught the Pharisees to take a look at their pride, Jesus then confronts the chief who had invited all of the people and begins to share with Him the message of how humility leads to hope.

3. Humility leads to Hope.

- a. Luke 14:12-14, Jesus shares how those who are holding a feast should not invite those who can repay them, rather that they should provide hope through their humility.
 - i. Humility leads to hope, because those who have been humbled are well aware that we need the hope that comes from Christ.
 - 1. Apart from Christ there is no hope, but with Christ, we have hope for all things.
 - ii. Think about it like this, Jesus was telling the chief of the Pharisees, to humble himself to a place where he would be willing to come and be seen with those who are not as blessed and that they share the message of hope with them.
- b. How often do we ourselves find it hard to reach out to people during some of their weakest moments?
 - i. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
 - 1. We must be willing to humble ourselves and put our position aside so that we are able to reach out to a world who has been hurt by the church and who has been left neglected by the world, and show them that a humble spirit leads to hope.
 - a. Why do we find that people who grew up with very little are often those who are willing to give in some of the most gracious ways?
 - i. Because these people have understood what it meant to be hopeless and then to find hope.
 - b. How much more should we, **THE CHUCRH**, be more sympathetic to a world who is living in hopelessness?
 - i. We have an understanding that we were lost, but now we are found...
 - 1. Now, is the time that we show how humility leads to hope, by telling the world the story of how Christ took us from a place

where we had been humbled and realized we needed God's love, and how we now have hope despite the circumstances of our world.

2. It is time that we show the world the Hope of Christ, because we have been humbled.
3. **1 Peter 1:3** - This is a living hope one that came because Jesus humbly died on the cross, in order that we have hope and a future.

2. 1 Corinthians 6:20

- a. This shares with us that we are a body who has been bought by a price, Christ paid the price of death so that we have the hope that can change the world.
 - i. Humility is understanding that God valued us enough to pay the devastating price of His Son, so that we could walk humbly with Him in the living hope of Jesus Christ.

The Landing

Let me be quite frank with you, Humility is something that I struggle with. Why? Because I live in a world that bases their success in the things that we can see and measure. Pride shows us, that just like the Pharisees, we try to put our spin on the way that things are. The Pharisees added regulations, so that they would observe the Sabbath in a way that would make them prideful. If we look back at Exodus 20:8, the command was to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Not take the Sabbath set forth a set of rules to uphold, then take pride in what you are visibly able to accomplish. Jesus showed us that, Humility leads to healing, one for the physical world and in a way that we are able to be in relationship with Jesus Christ. He then showed us how humility leads to honor. Have you ever thought about how those who keep their nose to the grind always seem to be promoted in their job? It's because they humbly did what they were expected to do and through that they were given more responsibility and they became honored. Even Jesus, who is God, did not come to be served, but He served others, through His life and even through His death. Then Jesus showed us that Humility leads to hope. Those who are poor or lame were not able to attend these functions, due to the fact that leaders held their guest to a higher standard, and in return they were repaid by being invited to their feast. We as Christians, must understand that God chose to use us, which should humble us in itself, because we are people who constantly screw up. But He chose us to serve and follow in a life like His, one that serves and does not expect to be served. This brings us to the Big Idea **"The lost get found when humility leads to service."** We serve those who are lost by giving them a way to the ultimate healing, Jesus Christ. We serve the lost because we have been honored and we want them to be honored in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Finally, we serve the lost through hope, because without the hope of Christ, we are nothing, but the hope of Christ has the power to transform lives that will allow us to be in relationship with God. So isn't it about time that we stand as a body of believers and allow the humility of Christ to lead us to serve a lost world, in the hopes that Christ would make the lost found? To some, Humility seems vain, like it is a part of us that makes us weak, but in our weakness God's strength is shown. To End, let's read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.