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2024

ENLARGE

STRETCH

LENGTHEN

STRENGTHEN

ISAIAH 54:2

Humility

Read 1 Peter 5:5-6

Listen to the Message 'Humility' (14th January 2024) at www.elim.family/media

In Ps. Jim's sermon on humility, he encourages the congregation to pursue spiritual growth with genuine motives, avoiding false humility.

Ps. Jim stresses Erwin McManus's view on humility — *'Humility begins by emptying ourselves of ourselves. It is about coming to God without agenda and reservation. If you are relating to God through negotiations, you have not yet found the path to humility.'* - and highlights the biblical perspective of valuing others. He acknowledges the challenge of humility in today's world, referencing 1 Peter 5:5-6.

Ps. Jim introduces the concept of three chairs, emphasizing the importance of authentic self-awareness and humility. He contends that living out one's calling requires humility, knowing that each person has a unique blend of strengths and weaknesses.

The sermon emphasizes the necessity of having the right motives, quoting Matthew 6:5 and warning against performing acts for show. Ps. Jim urges constant motive checks and asks a probing question suggested by Pete Scazzero: *'What is the deeper, often unconscious, motive behind my visions and dreams?'*

Drawing inspiration from former US president Harry Truman: *'It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit,'* the sermon envisions a life and church where humility reigns, leading to the fulfilment of the verse, Isaiah 54:2, "Enlarge the place of your tent."

Ps. Jim encourages the congregation to embrace humility in pursuing spiritual growth, living out their callings, and maintaining pure motives, fostering an atmosphere where success is measured by partnership and authentic service rather than personal recognition.

Questions for reflection:

1. Self-Examination: How do you perceive success in your culture, and how does it align with Ps. Jim's insights?

Reflect on a recent situation where humility played a significant role. How did you respond, and what did you learn about yourself?

2. Motives and Intentions: In what areas of your life do you find it challenging to maintain genuine motives? Why?

Can you identify instances where you've witnessed or experienced false humility? How did it impact the situation?

3. Balancing Success and Humility: How can you strike a balance between pursuing success and maintaining humility in your personal and professional life?

Consider a goal or ambition you have. Are your motives rooted in genuine growth and service, or are there elements of personal validation?

4. Motive Check: Before taking action or making decisions, how can you ensure that your motives align with humility and service?

Are there specific areas in your life where a constant motive check is needed? How can you implement this practice?

5. Applying Biblical Wisdom: In what ways can the principles of Philippians 2:1-5 and 1 Peter 5:5-6 guide your personal and collective actions?

Share instances where biblical wisdom on humility has positively impacted your life or a groups dynamic.

6. Future Aspirations: Imagine a community or church where humility is central. What specific actions or changes would contribute to that vision?

What role can you play, individually and as a group member, in fostering a culture of humility in your immediate community?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.