
True Humility

1 Peter 5:5-11

“Follow the Leader”

Five men were trekking for days across a wide plateau in western Colorado. One man declared himself the leader and attempted to control and direct the other's every move. He was abusive and demanding. Three of the others complained, resisted and demanded their rights. The fifth did not resist or complain. Instead, he pitched their camp, cooked their food, and attended to their blisters. He offered suggestions to their route but did not insist on his own way. The others continued to gripe and complain. Finally, the fifth man had it, and he left the group. The reality of their situation began to dawn on them. They were lost, and they could not get back to where they started. They didn't possess the skills to find food or shelter, and their relationships were so fractured that they were not even speaking to one another.

Have you experienced or observed a similar situation?

Was a legitimate leader in the group? Who was that?

The sixth and seventh days brought snow with below-freezing temperatures. The four men were growing desperate. They could die, and no one would even know where they were. One of them looked to the west and saw a thin wisp of smoke. Moving toward the smoke, they found the man they had driven away. He gave them food and shelter, and he led them out. It was his humility and desire to serve that saved their lives.

Reflection

Anogance, pride, and demand for leadership disqualifies one to lead. Yet humility and service establishes leadership. Christ did not demand leadership. Yet throngs of people followed him, as he spent his earthly life serving. He chose to lower himself to our level to save us.

Accountability and Application

Is it natural for us to exhibit humility?

What does 1 Peter 5:5 tell us will happen if we refuse to humble ourselves? Do you ever demand leadership or resist the established leader?

Prayer: Lord, as my view of you becomes clearer, I see that there is little about me that I can be proud of. Help me to walk in your humility so that you can use me.

1 Peter 5:5-11 (New American Standard Bible)

⁵You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

¹⁰After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

¹¹To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

