

# What an Attitude

## Part 2

Matthew 20:20–28; Philippians 2:1–11

- ▶ The Church is made up of people with problems
- ▶ Yes, Jesus Disciples had problems:
  - Some had problems with "PRIDE"
  - Some had problems with "PEOPLE"
  - And all of them had problems with "PERCEPTION" and "PRIORITIES"

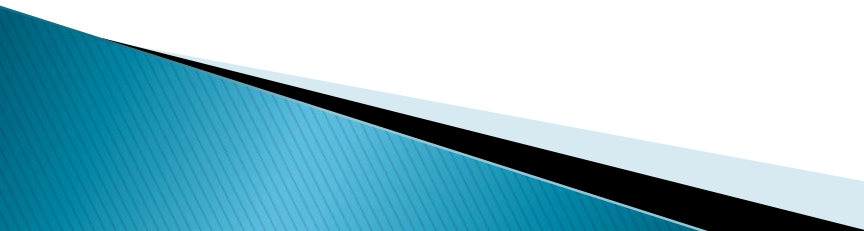
## ▶ **I. THERE IS OFTEN A PRIDE PROBLEM –**

- Matt 20:20–21 Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. 21 "What is your request?" he asked. She replied, "In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." NLT

- ▶ C.S. Lewis called pride "the great sin", because all other sins can be traced back to it.

We must constantly ask ourselves this question  
"Why do I do what I do?"

- Why do I preach?
  - Why do I teach?
  - Why am I a deacon?
  - Why do I serve on a committee?
  - Why do I sing on the team?
  - Why do I want to serve in some capacity?
- ▶ Humanity seems to follow repetitive patterns because they are a part of our sin nature. Pride is a constant challenge even to Christ followers. We must realize that it lurks within all of us!

- ▶ **II. THERE IS OFTEN A PEOPLE PROBLEM**
  - ▶ Matt 20:24 When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. The other 10 Disciples were listening intently as James, John & Salome make their request. They also listened as Jesus responded to the request. When they heard this, they were all "moved with indignation". They were "sore displeased or filled with anger".
  - ▶ God will offend our mind to reveal our heart!
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- ▶ III. THERE IS OFTEN A PERCEPTION PROBLEM
- ▶ Matthew 20:22–23 But Jesus answered by saying to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" 23 Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."  
NLT
- ▶ The lesson for His disciples was this. Positions in the kingdom are not awarded based on selfish ambition but according to the will of God.

- ▶ **IV. THERE IS OFTEN A PRIORITY PROBLEM**
- ▶ Matthew 20:25–28 But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 26 But among you it will be different. **Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. 28** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." NLT

- ▶ Let's look at priorities
  - Philippians 2:1-4 If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. NASB

## ▶ V. BE LIKE-MINDED

- ▶ Paul begins chapter 2 with a plea. It's a poetic plea, punctuated with four uses of the word "if":
  - If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ,
  - if there is any consolation of love,
  - if there is any fellowship of the Spirit,
  - if any affection and compassion,
- ▶ "Since you have all of these things..." He continues in verse 2, "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."
  - "like-minded," which means to be united on one purpose.
  - We need to overlook petty differences and agree on the big stuff. And the big stuff here is that we are the body of Christ. We have the same love. We are one in spirit. We are one in mind. What unites us is greater than what divides us.



- ▶ Think of the Military Culture
- ▶ We are not only linked to Christ, We are part of the family!
- ▶ The world needs to see a healthy church family, not a dysfunctional family

## ▶ VI. BE HUMBLE MINDED

- 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

NASB

- Think back to the passage in Matthew 20:26–28 – Servant and slave

- ▶ You see, true humility doesn't think less of yourself. True humility simply thinks of yourself ... less.
  - You have less time for selfies, for personal updates in social media, for hair appointments or mirror glances, less time for plotting how to get your way.
  - Why? Because you are busy serving others.
  - You live by the acronym JOY:
    - Jesus,
    - Others,
    - You.

- **Romans 12:10–11** Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. NLT
- **Galatians 5:13–14** For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." NLT
- **Ephesians 5:21** And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- **1 Peter 5:5** In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." NLT

- ▶ Marriage is a laboratory for moving from selfishness to selflessness.
  - We often marry someone is opposite of us. Covenants were made to help complete us!
  - Complete not compete
  - Opposites attract ... and then they attack. What you thought was so cute when you first met NOW DRIVES YOU CRAZY!
  - Craig Hill book “Two Fleas and No Dog”



- ▶ Be like-minded and humble-minded, both in the context of the next step, which is to ...

- ▶ **VII. BE CHRIST MINDED**


- ▶ Jesus referred to himself as humble (Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. NASB),
- ▶ Paul rightly points us to Christ as the ultimate example of selfless humility.
  - Philippians 2:5–9 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,** 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. NASB

- ▶ Paul illustrates Christ's humility with a beautiful poem in verses 6–11. Most scholars think it was an early hymn of the church, and have nicknamed it the “kenosis,” from the Greek word in verse 7 that describes Christ “emptying himself.”
  - People have differed over what that phrase means. My understanding is that, when Christ volunteered for the mission to become fully human, to step down from the glories of heaven to become one of us, he set aside for a time his divine qualities. While he walked the earth, he relied on the Heavenly Father just as we do.
  - That's why he could honestly say to his disciples about the timing of his second coming,
    - “No one knows, not even the Son” (Matthew 24:36).
    - And that's why scripture can say that Jesus was tempted in every way common to man, yet did not sin (Hebrews 4:15).
  - He lived a full 100% human life, dependent upon God like us. He didn't cheat and rely upon his godliness to live the perfect life. No, he set all that aside when he stepped down from heaven to earth.

- ▶ Verses 6–8 depict that downward trek. Can you imagine the voice of all creation (Col 1:15–16 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. NLT) now limited to a baby's cry?
- ▶ **Max Lucado marvels, “The God of the universe kicked against the wall of a womb, was born into the poverty of a peasant, and spent His first night in the feed trough of a cow” (From “Next Door Savior”).**
- ▶ This downward mobility required great humility. The one who was in essential nature or form God himself became in essential nature or form a human. 100% God and now 100% human. And this human would suffer and die, not just any death but a poor criminal's death on a cross.

- ▶ **2 Corinthians 8:9** You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. NLT
- ▶ **Philippians 2:9–11** Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NASB



- ▶ That is the pattern of the Bible: when you humble yourself, God will lift you up.
  - ▶ If you choose to take the high road, if you choose forgiveness over revenge, if you choose serving over being served, God will take care of you.
  - ▶ It may not look like it today, but trust in him. For Christ, things didn't look so hot on that fateful Friday, but things got a lot better by Easter Sunday.
  - ▶ So change your mind! Move away from the self-centered compulsion and seek to have the mind of Christ, to serve rather than to be served, to build up the body of Christ, and to love others with the love of Christ.
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- ▶ Lord, as we prepare now for Communion, I ask for help with my own sinful self that so often pursues my self-centeredness and selfishness. Help me to love each person as you have loved me. Help me to focus on you Jesus who gave yourself for me, so that I could be with you forever and ever.
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