

Gathering Question: Who is the most humble person you know. What are her characteristics? How does that person make you feel when you are around him?

Bear With One Another

It is tucked in there, almost hidden in the text. Do you remember seeing it in Exodus 12:3? “Now Moses was a humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.” Now that’s humble! Can you imagine?

What was it about Moses for Scripture to honor him with this incredible statement? Maybe it was his patience and forbearance in the face of the rebellion of his own people.

Israel was on the verge of its greatest moment. God had powerfully led them out of Egypt and they were on their way to the Promised Land. They had experienced some really incredible events – the ten plagues, crossing the Red Sea on dry land, eating manna, and drinking water provided by God, and the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. They now stood on the threshold. It was time to enter the Promised Land. God told Moses to select spies to go into Canaan and explore the land. Twelve were selected and for 40 days they traversed the land. They brought back with them fruit from the land including a grape cluster so big that it had to be carried on a pole between two of them. Canaan was in fact a land flowing with milk and honey, just like the Lord had told them.

But when they returned, 10 out of the 12 spies brought back a bad report. And even though Joshua and Caleb tried to convince the people otherwise, God’s people cowered in fear. The enemy is too big, the task is too enormous, and we are too small to do this!

To say that God was angry in an understatement! He asked Moses how long would these people treat him with contempt, especially in view of the fact that they had seen so many miracles! God told Moses that he would destroy everyone with a plague and start over. He would build around Moses a people who would honor God.

You will not believe who went to bat for the Children of Israel – Moses! It is incredible but Moses reminded God that he is slow to anger, abounding in love, and that he forgives sins. He humbly asked God to bear with these people! Wow!

That’s the essence of bearing. You never have to bear things that are good. You only have to bear things that are bad. That’s why this “one another” statement is placed where it is in Ephesians 4:2. Listen carefully to the words Paul writes: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” If the Bible described you, what words would it use?

Read: Ephesians 4:1-3

Discuss:

1. Is humility just a personality trait that some people have or is it something that can be learned? How can it be learned? Do you think Moses was always humble? Explain your answer.
2. What are the most difficult things for you to bear when it comes to your brethren?