

Gathering Question: If you were to ask American's who the greatest person was in the past 100 years, what are some of the names they would mention? From a Christian perspective, how would you answer that question? Why?

Bowing Down

True humility stems from a realistic understanding of one's gifts, training, skills, and contentment with one's purpose in life. It matters not if the situation of a person's life is lowly or exalted; humility is demonstrated in a person's life through selfless attitudes and actions that seek the well-being of others. We reflect the character of Jesus as we empty ourselves in service to others.

According to Jesus, the path to real greatness in the Kingdom of God must go through humility. Our Master led the way by becoming the servant of all, the quintessential example of humility, and he invites us to follow him. This is not an easy path. Few people choose real humility, especially in the way Jesus demonstrated it.

Let's face it, humility is something we love to see in other people's lives but have difficulty putting into practice in our own lives. In our ego-driven, me-centered world, there are a lot of misconceptions about humility. Some think humility stems from a poor self-image or reflects weakness in a lack of confidence. Others treat it like a personality trait with which some people are born or a spiritual gift that is giving only to some saints and not to others. Humility is a Christ like quality that can be nurtured in all believers.

Genuinely humble people who have a desire to seek the well-being of others are generally very secure people. They are fully aware of their gifts, their training, their experience, and all the attributes that make them successful at whatever they do. That security, that honest, healthy self-assessment, results in more than a humble constitution; it translates into actions that can be observed, actions that we will want to emulate.

Read:

Mark 10:35-45; Philippians 2:1-11; also II Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 4:11-13;
I Timothy 6:6-10

Reflect:

1. What do you think was at the heart of James and John's request of Jesus? Can you see both positive and negative possibilities? In your own words, explain why Jesus said no.
2. Draw a diagram that expresses Philippians 2:6-11.
3. What influence does personal contentment have on humility? Explain your answer.