



CHANGE YOUR MIND

True Humility

Sunday 2nd February 2025

John 1:29-34

Today is part four of our 'Change Your Mind' series. We are looking at the beginning of John's gospel and how this can transform your mind. Today we witness to John the Baptist bearing witness to Jesus and in that we get to see true humility. Without a truly humbled mind you will struggle with your sense of identity, your sense of purpose, and you will never be able to understand, much less accept, your place in this world. But the culture you live in here says otherwise.

1 Now let's turn to John 1:29,

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Now let's not forget the events of the day before, John was pressed and interrogated about who he was, he had been a man under pressure. But today, the stakes are higher than they have ever been.

Today, would John the Baptist (in public) call this man by His own Name and purpose? The answer John's life gave was yes! Now you might want to imagine you would always identify Jesus when it is plain and clear who He is. But that's not so. What about Peter in Mark 14:71,

Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"

At no point in history had Jesus of Nazareth been more known and yet at this point Peter denies even knowing who He is or that he had ever had anything to do with Him. **And that friends, is what happens when humility walks out and we decide that we want to fit into the crowd.**

You see true humility is not blending into the crowd – that is false humility.

True humility acknowledges who we are not in order to elevate the Name of Jesus. Now this will need unpacking so you can see this clearly.

In every single verse from 29 to 34 John is insisting on keeping Jesus at the centre of it all. Let's move onto verse 30,

5

This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

Preferred before me – you say but that was a John thing. No it was a Jesus thing! Jesus' very name and presence demands one ultimate thing of all of us.

6

Look at Philippians 2:9-11,

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In the end every knee will bow to Jesus. In the end every tongue will confess the name of Jesus. Without exception this is where everyone is headed. And that worship and confession will either start willingly in this life on earth, or, you will do it according to His mighty power and majesty in the next. But let's be clear, those who do not confess Him in this life, before people, Jesus will not confess before God in heaven, He will not plead your case, instead saying to you, "Depart from Me, I never knew you."

7

Now as we go back to John's story, verses 31-33 stand as one. They describe how John understood the purpose of his ministry.

8

I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³²And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

9

John's ministry was the revelation of Jesus Christ. **Every Christian's ministry is the revelation of Jesus Christ** (either more deeply to those who know Him, or clearly to those who don't). Paul's ministry was this in 1 Corinthians 2:2,

10

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

11

If you are pursuing a ministry that is not about revealing Jesus Christ, then you are not in Christian ministry. **Your ministry requires you to remain humble enough to point to Jesus in all things you do.** Which means choosing not to talk about anything else. That means not just having easy surface

conversations. That means not sounding popular, not going viral, not being promoted, not being accepted. Otherwise how will they hear?

Equally humility does not mean bowing out of the things that will put us in the public eye, but it does mean pointing to Jesus when they're all looking and wondering. Look with me at Matthew 3:13-15,

12

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

John was rightly humbled thinking I need the baptism of yours (i.e. the baptism of the Holy Spirit) so why would you come to me? But John humbled himself under God's hand and what did God do? He exalted John, He elevated John's ministry. Why? For John to become famous? No! For Jesus to be increased, to be seen, to be known to all Israel? Yes!

13

Do you want to know what the person who humbles themselves under God's almighty hand can accomplish? Anything God calls and sends them to do.

Humility is about emptying me of me. That empty vessel can then be filled by God to use for His glory to magnify (i.e. make bigger) the Name of Jesus.

14

As Peter, the one who fell harder than most, later wrote in 1 Peter 5:5-6,

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

15

You do not want to be exalted except by God's power AND in God's time.

When the devil invites you to exalt yourself, you need to tell him to get behind you. "I don't want to see your evil face much less hear you evil ideas about de-throning Jesus!"

Now here's the template for humility – what it looks like, the Jesus way. Peter said 'be clothed with humility' and everyone gets dressed on purpose.

Philippians 2:6-8,

who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

1. Live as the created not the Creator
2. Live because of what God HAS said, not for what others MIGHT say
3. Dress because you are made in His image, not to create a new image
4. Obey what God says, even when it gets expensive
5. Remember you are not above anything – even the cross

God's in the business of taking the least people of this world and turning them into mountain-moving saints of the next world. God has already chosen the foolish things of this world to put to shame the wise ideas of this world.

He has chosen you to walk humbly with Him.