PUT ON…

Humility, *Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Samuel 25*

Several of our deacons have been meeting regularly over the past couple of years to develop plans for implementing our elders' vision through improved communication and collaboration. Part of their effort involves choosing an annual theme around which to organize their activities. They selected the following theme for this year:

Equipped for the mission: every disciple, every place

Their theme motivates our current sermon series, which explores the question, ***"What does it look like to be equipped for the mission?"*** We are focusing our study on Paul's letter to the Colossians because it records his instruction to his audience to "put on" certain attitudes and practices, which, together, form the portrait of an equipped disciple.

Paul urged the Colossian Christians to focus themselves on that kingdom by "seek[ing] the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1). But, Paul wrote, seeking has a specific look; it involves "put[ting] to death" the attitudes and practices inconsistent with Jesus' rule and kingdom and "put[ting] on" ones consistent with Jesus (Colossians 3:5-14) This lesson continues the study of these attributes by focusing on "Humility."

What Does It Mean to "Put On" Humility?

- Understanding our identity shapes how we understand the attributes that follow *(Ephesians 1:4–5; 1 Peter 2:9).*
    - We "put on" humility because we already are His people.
- The Christian life is not about earning a place in God's family *(Titus 3:4–7).*
    - It is about living in a way that reflects the place we have already been given.
- "Put on" implies intentional, daily action *(Ephesians 4:22–24).*
    - These qualities are visible and relational, not merely internal attitudes *(Matthew 5:16).*
- Being equipped for the mission begins with who we are becoming, not just what we are doing *(2 Corinthians 5:17).*
- Humility is a right understanding of ourselves in relation to God and others.
    - Others are valued as people made in God's image *(Genesis 1:27; Philippians 2:3–4).*
- Many conflicts are rooted in pride rather than the surface issue *(James 4:1–2).*
    - Humility interrupts escalation by absorbing tension rather than amplifying it.

Humility Revealed in Moments of Offense

- Humility is most clearly revealed in difficult moments.
- These moments expose what is truly in our hearts *(Luke 6:45).*

    - Though previously faithful *(1 Samuel 24:5–7),* David reacts with anger and prepares for revenge *(1 Samuel 25:13, 21–22).*
    - Spiritual identity does not always equal spiritual maturity *(Hebrews 5:12–14).*
- In our lives, we face similar situations.
    - We may not take up swords, but we respond with words, attitudes, or resentment *(Ephesians 4:31).*
    - Pride easily returns when we feel justified or wronged.

A Humble Interruption: Abigail Steps In

- Abigail's humility is attentive and engaged *(1 Samuel 25:18)*
    - She intervenes to prevent destruction *(vv. 25–31).*
    - She lowers herself and shows respect *(v. 23).*
    - She takes responsibility, though she is not at fault *(v. 24).*
    - She speaks truth with wisdom and gentleness *(Proverbs 25:11; Ecclesiastes 10:12).*
- Abigail absorbs the tension rather than escalating it *(Proverbs 15:1).*
- True humility is strength submitted to God and used for the good of others *(Philippians 2:3–5).*

Humility Redirects the Heart

- Abigail's humility changes the outcome of the situation *(1 Samuel 25:32–35).*
- David recognizes that she has kept him from sin and bloodshed *(vv. 33–34).*
- Humility is not just personal; it is communal *(1 Corinthians 12:25–26).*
- When we choose humility, we step into moments that can either escalate conflict or bring peace *(Matthew 5:9).*

The Greater Humility: Jesus

- Like Abigail, Jesus steps into the path of judgment *(Isaiah 53:4–6).*
- Christ "humbled himself… to the point of death" *(Philippians 2:6–8).*
    - The Son of God lowers Himself to serve and save others *(Mark 10:45).*
- The humility we practice flows from our connection to Jesus *(John 15:4–5).*
    - We reflect His character as we follow Him *(1 John 2:6).*

Applications

- Humility must be intentionally chosen, especially when it feels least natural *(Colossians 3:12).*
- We are able to clothe ourselves in humility because we are united with the one who wore humility perfectly *(Philippians 2:5–8; Galatians 3:27)*
- True leadership is marked by humility, not self-assertion *(Matthew 20:25–28).*
- Humble Christians become a compelling witness to the world *(John 13:34–35).*
- As we consistently "put on" humility, others will see Christ formed in us *(Galatians 2:20).*