

Pastor's Corner

How to Walk Humbly

April 8, 2009

Dear Friend,

I read a short story, and it's made me think a lot about humility. I've often wondered how to be humble. Being humble is not something that is encouraged or praised in our society. Most of the people who get recognition are



pretty proud! But many of us can probably think of one or two people who we've come across that are humble, and it's those people who I want to be like but the question I find myself asking so often is the *how* part. *How* can I be humble? Does it mean that I will refuse any praise for my actions? For example, if someone comes up and says that I dress nice, do I say, "No, I'm really not. I can't take the credit for these clothes." Will that make me humble? What if before a sermon during the introductions I look down and act all meek and stuff, and while they are praising my past sermons I just act all meek, will that make me humble?

Now, you might find my thoughts on this all irrelevant. You might even be thinking, "Hey Mark, I have many other things to worry about than my humility right now." But the Bible tells us the humility is very important, and it even says that we are to *do* something about it. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:10. There we have it; my work, His work. I'm supposed to humble myself, and He will lift me up. Jesus even told us: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. Humility and meekness must be pretty important in heaven's eyes if God asks us to be that way!

Well, back to the story I read the other day. It's made quite an impact on my way of thinking, a sort of paradigm shift, some might call it. It's opened my eyes to the *how* of learning to live in humility.

The Navigators are well known for their emphasis on having a humble servant attitude. A businessman once asked Lorne Sanny, president of the Navigators, how he would know when he had a servant attitude. The reply: "By how you act when you are treated like one."

You see, when people treat me indifferently, or say things that are rude, or order me around; essentially treating me as a servant or a slave, and I react as a servant, then I am being humble; I'm acting like the Servant of servants did when He was here. But if I act all nice when people are treating me nice and with respect, and get all upset when I'm not treated as I think I should be treated, then I'm not acting humble; I'm not acting like a servant.

I hope this story speaks to your heart like it did mine. Memorize that line: "Humility is acting like a servant when I am treated like one" and the next time someone treats you as a servant, don't respond like a pit-bull but like a servant. Study the life of Christ, especially the closing scenes as we find them in [Matthew 26 and 27](#), and it will give you the strength to respond as a humble servant.

We're praying for you!

Mark