

HE>I

John 1:19-34



SYNOPSIS

"Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist, there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance." ~St. Augustine.

Legend has it that, on this deathbed, the apostle John repeatedly said, "Love." His vision of love came from his observation of the Trinity and the humility with which they treated each other.

In our era of hyper-individuality, entitlement, and everything from a subtle sense of superiority to narcissism, we miss out on God's gift of community because we lack humility.

Jesus commended John the Baptist's greatness, which is a study in humility.



OUTLINE

1

HUMILITY IS BELIEVING WHO GOD SAYS I AM

Even before birth, John was filled with the Holy Spirit and was prophesied to have an Elijah-like ministry. (Luke 1:15-17) He became a celebrity as he lived out his destiny. (Mark 1:5) Yet when asked who he was, John was clear that he was a herald for the coming Messiah. (John 1:19-23)

Who are you in the Lord?

1. SHAPE = spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, experience. As beings who are fearfully, wonderfully, and uniquely made by God, our sovereign foundations give rise to our SHAPE.
2. Ladder of integrity (<https://tinyurl.com/integrityladder>)
 - a. If we choose a Kingdom response (Titus 2:11-14) when our values are violated, we can be shaped further.

2

HUMILITY IS DOING WHAT GOD INVITES US TO DO

God has already told us what to do generally (Micah 6:8). Saying "yes" to him on the front end allows us to discover God's specific assignments along the way.

John was a voice in the wilderness. His environment was dry and arid. As with the poorly attended funeral that P. Peter officiated last month, the outcomes are never guaranteed, nor even the point. All God asks of us is obedience.

3

HUMILITY IS POINTING PEOPLE TOWARD JESUS

"Humility isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." ~Rick Warren

John was overjoyed to announce Jesus's arrival as the Lamb of God who came to address the brokenness of the world. (John 3:29) His whole life led up to introducing Jesus to others.

Then he died prematurely because of a teenage girl's whim. Yet Jesus called him the greatest who ever lived until his time. (Matt 11:11) Jesus affirmed the life and ministry of John the Baptist who, in his greatness, showed true humility that received the commendation of God Himself.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How does your understanding of humility align/contrast with John the Baptist's model of humility/greatness?

2

Who do you believe you are? What is your SHAPE?

3

What are your values? How do you hope to live them out when they are violated?

4

What is God inviting you to do? What keeps you from doing what God invites you to do?

5

What is one step you can take in living a humble life that points people toward Jesus?



BIG IDEA

Humility is...

- believing who God says I am
- doing what God invites me to do
- pointing people toward Jesus

May the Lord be pleased with how you live out Christian virtues on the foundation of humility.

