

Sermon Title: "Go Low"

Sermon Text: Luke 14:11

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

Think about the following quotes. Agree, disagree? What stands out? How might these quotes help you pray for the message today?

- "To see a man humble under prosperity is one of the greatest rarities in the world." John Flavel
- "When men are convinced of the sinfulness of pride, that it hath more evil in it than other disgraceful sins, they will then set themselves in earnest to mortify and subdue it." Richard Mayo
- "You can have no greater sign of confirmed pride than when you think you are humble enough." William Law
- "Can you serve your boss and others at work, helping them to succeed and be happy, even when they are promoted and you are overlooked? Can you work to make others look good without envy filling your heart? Can you minister to the needs of those whom God exalts and men honor when you yourself are neglected? Can you pray for the ministry of others to prosper when it would cast yours in the shadows?" Donald Whitney

Sermon Questions: This will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- Why is it sinful and foolish to seek to exalt ourselves?
- In what way is exalting self really a different religion?
- What are some things about the gospel that make it clear we have to say no to self-exaltation?
- What are some counterfeits to true humility?
- How does the humble person think about himself?
- Why does the humble person think about himself that way?
- Is humility the same thing as feeling inferior to others? Why or why not?
- What does humility have to do with faith in the gospel?
- We gave at least ten examples of what humility does. How many can you remember? Which stood out to you?

Sermon Outline: A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.

1. What does it mean to exalt yourself?
2. What are some signs people are seeking to exalt themselves in a sinful way?
3. Why is it sinful and foolish to exalt self?

- a. It doesn't work
 - b. It is based on lies
 - c. It has devastating consequences
 - d. It is a different religion**
 - e. It is anti-gospel**
4. What does it mean to humble yourself?
- a. What it is not
 - b. What it is
 - c. What it looks like in real life

Summary Statement: This is a VERY short explanation to help you get the point of the message.

I want you to understand what humility is and is not and motivate you to actually seek to humble yourself.

Self-Evaluation Assignment: This is a simple worksheet to help you evaluate yourself.

It is not always easy to identify pride in yourself, so I thought I could give you a list of possible indicators. And really, I am giving you this list to try to help motivate you to listen carefully to this message on humility. These are a number of symptoms of possible pride. There may be other possible explanations for some of the characteristics on this list, but we should at least be willing to explore the possibility they might be the result of pride. I would encourage you to try to think about why I might say these are symptoms of pride.

You *might* have a problem with pride if:

- You can't think of something you have recently learned from someone else.
- You have trouble listening to others.
- You don't ask people many questions.
- You don't feel a desire to learn.
- You are bothered when someone you know is better at something than you.
- You are very embarrassed when you make a mistake and someone finds out.
- You are often bored when other people are talking to you.
- You often feel unnoticed and unappreciated.
- You often feel superior or inferior to others.
- You rarely say 'I don't know' or 'I'll have to think about that' when someone asks you a question.
- You are often hurt and angry by the way someone looked at you or the tone someone used when they were talking to you.
- You often find yourself complaining about other people.
- Even though the person you are listening to may be godly and may be well-trained in the Scripture and even though what he is saying may be biblical, you just don't get much out of his messages.
- You have a hard time saying, I was wrong to someone younger than you.

- You can't remember the last time you repented to someone else or God.
- People annoy you. A lot.
- When you think someone might be wrong about something you are quick to use very strong language and very extreme terms to talk about them and their error.
- Your first response in a conflict is to become defensive, make excuses for your actions, and blameshift.
- You often point out what you interpret as wrong in a situation and later discover you didn't have all the facts.
- You are confident that you know other people's motives better than they do.
- You have difficulty feeling or showing true empathy for people who are having problems.
- When you are in a situation that is confusing, you often first rely on your reasoning and fail to ask God or others for help.
- You talk about yourself alot.
- You lie.
- When you hear of someone struggling with sin, you think, I would never do that.
- You sin or make a foolish error or are forgetful about something and think, "I can't believe that I did that."
- You have a hard time forgiving others.
- You don't give thanks very often.
- You are more critical of others than you are encouraging.
- The gospel seems dry to you.
- You rarely discover something new or unusual or something that you need to think more about as you are reading the Bible.
- You do not actively participate in the prayers, singing, and preaching by thinking carefully about what is being said during a worship service and what God wants you to do in response to the teaching.
- You have a very difficult time resting even when it is obvious that you need it.

Sermon Flow: This is a basic summary that might help you understand what this sermon is doing and where it is going.

1. Introduction to the subject
2. Read the text
3. Pray
4. Explanation of context of Luke 14:11
5. Summary of questions we have already asked of this verse
 - a. What does it mean to exalt self
 - b. How do we seek to exalt self
 - c. Why is it sinful and foolish to exalt self
 - i. Here I introduce two new reasons that I didn't give last week
 1. It is a different religion
 2. It is anti-gospel

6. Identification of the question we are going to focus on in this message: what does it mean to humble self?
 - a. Illustrations of what Jesus does not mean
 - b. Explanation of three components of genuine humility
 - i. Accurate self-assessment
 - ii. Awe of God
 - iii. Faith in the gospel
 - c. Real life illustrations of what humbling self looks like

Application Questions: We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital we respond.

- You are not going to be truly humble without the fear of God. How can you grow in your awe of God this week?
- Think about the implications of believing that you are a human and not God, that you are a sinner and not perfect, that God is the center of the universe and you are not, and that you have been forgiven of all your sins and are clothed in the righteousness of Christ should have on the way you think about your life, how you talk to others, how you feel. See if you can come up with three specific examples for each.
- What are you going to do as a result of the sermon today?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.