New Beginnings Community Church Date March 3, 2019

**Speaker:** Pastor Hurmon Hamilton

## **HUMBLE PART 3**

Scripture used: <u>Luke 4:1-13 (NLT)</u>

## **OVERVIEW**

Pastor Hurmon walked us through the third and final sermon on Being Humble as a key character attribute and leadership trait that Jesus exemplifies with His life. Our Scripture depicts Jesus going straigth from His baptism and the affirmation of His value and identity as God's Son to moving to a time of solitude and reflection in the wilderness and being tempted three times. The same temptations will come back again and again in the next three-and-a-half years as Jesus ramps his public ministry. Jesus epitomizes how the path to humility is also the path to transform the world.

## **KEY POINTS**

- 1) In Matthew 23:11-12, we are reminded that whoever wants to be exalted will be humbled, and whoever is humble will be exalted. There is a God, but I am not God, thus I need to surrender my life. I should not think less of myself, but should think of myself less, i.e., put others at the center. Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us not to be selfish, not to try to impress, and to take an interest in others.
- 2) Courageous humility is exemplified by Jesus: He took human form and showed both his leadership and servanthood. It's a reminder that we should reaffirm our obedience to Jesus who has the first and last word. We must choose others before we prioritize ourselves, sometimes at personal cost. Small, courageous steps of practical humility mean that we are not concerned with our personal status, our contributions, and accomplishments. Instead, we seek to win as a team, and we are open to asking for advice, feedback, and help.
- 3) Our insecurity stands in the way of humility. It sometimes shows up as arrogance, and other times as fear or anxiety. Jesus shows us how to confront our insecurity. Like Jesus when he is tempted in Luke 4, we are often tempted to find our identity in what we can do (or achievements and abilities), what we have (power, pleasure, wealth), or our sense that we are valuable or lovable. Jesus answers every temptation with Scripture and by returning to the assurance that He is God's beloved Son there isn't any "if" about it!
- 4) When confronting our insecurity, Jesus gives us a simple 3-step model:
  - a. We ought to identify and recognize the voice that is challenging our identity. This is the voice of the devil, the enemy of our souls, and it seeks to deceive us!
  - b. We need to reject this voice with a unequivocal "No!" and rebut it the false claims using the promises of God's Word to us.
  - c. We need to shift the focus back from "me" to "Thee!" and turn our attention to God's goodness, faithfulness, and calling on our lives.

## **DISCUSSION**

- 1) **HEAR** Discern your heart. What role does insecurity play in your life? Is it a current influence? Have there been previous times or circumstances when you have felt more insecure? What do you usually do when you are feeling insecure?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Go deeper into looking at <u>Luke 4:1-13</u>. Do you think of this interaction between Jesus and the devil as more of a testing or a tempting? Why do you think this interaction occurred at this moment of Jesus' life? How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus was tempted/tested? What do you think about the devil quoting Scripture to Jesus? Finally, how does it make you feel knowing that the tempting/testing was something that would be revisted down the road in Jesus' life? Are there other times in Jesus' life when it was apparent that He was being tested again? Think about these questions, and how they relate to your own relationship with God and what to expect about living a faithful life.
- 3) **DO** Pastor Hurmon asked us to locate our identity in Jesus in order to have greater freedom from insecurity. Consider doing one of the following as a practical step forward:
  - a. Spend five minutes each day using Scripture to affirm your identity as God's beloved. These verses may be helpful: 1 John 3:1-2, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 1:4, Philippians 4:13
  - b. Reflect on an area of your life where you are susceptible to feeling insecure, and spend some focused time with God this week submitting that area of your life to Him.