

PURSUIT OF HUMILITY

(developed by Michel Larriveau MTh)

based on the 26 instructions in the New Testament

TEACHING NOTES

Aim: 'to learn how to walk humbly with God'

COURSE PLAN

TITLE: Pursuit of Humility

AIM: 'to learn how to walk humbly with God'

sample below for preview

SESSION 1 - 'Beware of being put off children'

for the rest of the course contact us

SESSION 2 - 'Beware of drifting out of position'

SESSION 3 - 'Beware of letting your blind spot
catch you out'

SESSION 4 - 'Beware of forgetting the service is
included'

SESSION 5 - 'Beware of being a lone ranger'

SESSION 6 - 'Beware of being ambushed by promotions'

SESSION 7 - 'Beware of missing the call'

for other courses see www.genuineimitation.org.uk

SESSION 1 - 'Beware of being put off children'

Read Matthew 18 verses 1 to 14

to start

- which one is the **only direct command?** see verse 10
- which ones are **indirect commands?** = v.3, v.4, v.5 and v.6
- very enlightening and challenging for all Christians on their attitude toward children! See also Mark 10:13-16 [v.14 = Jesus' indignation]
- **what has been your attitude until now?** any need to repent?
- the indirect instruction of v.4 is the main focus for the course aim
- **the disciples' preoccupation** at that time is in v.1 = '**who is the greatest** in the kingdom of heaven?' - in Luk.9:46 it talks of 'argument'
- they might have used in their arguments
 - = **achievements** such as in Luk.9:1-6, Luk.10:17-24
 - = **experiences** as in Luk.9:28-36
- Jesus against achievements and experiences!! no as he achieved and experienced a lot himself - see also John 14:12
- **the thing above all things** that God considers greatness is, not for us to become like children in every way but **to be humble as a child** is humble
- the conclusion regarding humility we can draw from Jesus' words and actions here, even if nothing else was said, without hesitation and doubt, is that **humility is very important & vital to God**
- if humility is very important to God **HUMILITY** must be or become very important & vital to us and something to pursue at all cost

HUMILITY

- to start with we need to look at the definition:
 - . for some it is just the quality of having a low view of ourselves
 - . but a full biblical definition is, see Romans 12:3
- 'not think of ourselves more highly than we ought,
but rather think of ourselves with sober judgment**

- a common attitude Paul refers to when it comes to thinking of ourselves is **thinking too highly** = having a too high esteem = pride
- the Bible **warns us against** such an attitude:
 - Ps.101:5, 138:6 - Prov.16:5, 18-19 (lots in Prov.) - 1 Pet.5:5
 - and especially in **Luke 18:11-12** = parable of Jesus regarding the contrasting attitude of a Pharisee (religious) a Publican (hated figure)
- the other attitude Paul could have warned is the opposite one and which is even more common = thinking too low, **a too low esteem**
- do you know biblical examples? **Moses** (Exod.3:11, 4:11) - **Gideon** (Judges 6:15) - **Timothy** (1 Tim.4:12-16)]
- the **main problem with low esteem** is that it makes anybody, like Moses & Gideon, reluctant/unwilling to do what God says
- **the right attitude** advocated by Paul and acceptable to God, is 'think of yourself', so not a question of **not thinking at all** (not humility) '**with 'sound judgement'/'soberly'**, avoiding both extremes
- Paul also tells us where 'sound judgement' comes from; end of verse 3b = '**in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you**' = faith, that is what we believe, from what God says / has said – see Rom.10:17 - who are we going to believe?
- in Rom.12:3-8, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul also helps us to believe the right things which will promote humility;
 - drawing attention to the '**grace of God**',
 - making the **comparison** physical body / body of Christ
 - showing the **difference in gifts**
 - listing few gifts & encouraging** their use
- these different ways plus others will be the object of our attention for the sessions in the rest of this course to help our pursuit of humility

to sum up: counting on the help of the Holy Spirit ...

- to have a positive attitude towards children following Jesus' example and words
- to never despise any children for any reason
- to welcome and pray for children whenever possible
- to know and remember how humility is important & vital to God
- to make sure whatever it takes for humility to be one of the ingredients in our life