

Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Rebel’s Rules for following Jesus” (pt. 6) – 3/2/2014

Scripture: John 3:22-30

Bottom Line: True Rebels find great joy in growing humility.

INTRODUCTION:

Describe the most humble person you know (we will know your lying if you describe yourself!). Why do you think humility is such an attractive quality? Let’s look at John the Baptist and the humility he shows when Jesus’ ministry grows larger than his ministry.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 3:22-24

What is the meaning of baptism?

- Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward truth or reality. It represents a person dying to their sin (going under the water) and rising again to new spiritual life (coming out of the water). The act of baptism doesn’t save you, but it is a public act that identifies you with Jesus and his followers.

What does it mean in verse 23 when it says that “people were coming and being baptized?”

- It meant that God was at work in people’s lives, bringing them to repentance and helping them commit to follow Him. This was before Jesus died for people’s sins, but remember that the Jews had been looking for the Messiah for a really long time. They put their faith in his future work just as we put our faith in his past work.

Read John 3:25-30

What is John's perspective on success and how does that relate to Jesus?

- John believes that God is responsible for the good things in his life and because Jesus is God, John's success exists to magnify Jesus and his worth. True humility comes in response to God's generosity.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

What is a common reaction we have to other people's success, especially if you have worked hard and haven't been as successful?

- Jealousy. Yet, John gives us a great perspective on our lives when he says "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven." God knows and loves you! This frees you to be generous toward others and to rejoice in the success of others.

The gospel produces true humility. It's not that we think less of ourselves, rather we think of ourselves less. We define ourselves the way Jesus defines us and consider other people's interests above our own. In this way we become like Jesus who through complete selflessness died for our sin and reconciled us to God.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How is humility produced in our lives?

- The quick answer to this question is that God produces it in our lives because he is in control. However, we can put forth an effort to develop these qualities through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- **Try this.** Think of your selfishness and then think about God's generosity and goodness. When we consider our sin and natural selfishness, God's generosity is overwhelming. He cares for you!
- **Prayer.** Consider praying for God to make his desires to be your desires. Also consider praying for Jesus to place you where you can see him working OR pray for Jesus to use your passions and gifts for his purpose.
- **Serve.** How can you show selfless love to other people?