

4. What do humble people do according to Jesus in Luke 18:9-14?

SERIES: The Rescue Begins

SERMON 5: "One Amazingly Simple & Surprising Thing You Can Do Today to Grow Spiritually"

TEXT: Luke 2:1-7

DATE: April 21/22, 2018

Maturing believers who live more and more selflessly, who share their faith more and more despite their fears, and who live in vital relationships with other believers are followers of Jesus who _____ regularly to God.

5. Lifeway research has uncovered that people who share their faith often also confess their sins often. Why do you think this is so?

You don't regularly confess sin without _____.

Luke focuses on the _____ of God found in the birth of Jesus.

"I believe in the poetic genius of a creator who would choose to express such unfathomable power as a child born in "straw poverty"; i.e., the story of Christ makes sense to me. ... As an artist, I see the poetry of it. It's so brilliant. That this scale of creation, and the unfathomable universe, should describe itself in such vulnerability, as a child. That is mind-blowing to me." (Bono)

6. How can you grow in your practice of confession?

What is Humility?

Luke 18:9-14

Humility is the posture of our hearts when we compare ourselves to _____.

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

What Do Humble People Do?

Humble people _____ to God.

Reflections on Confessing Sin

- Confession flows from a deepening _____.

The holiness of God is about all his great attributes _____.

- Our confession of sins needs to go _____.

C.S. Lewis: When you speak vile or hurtful words, think about how truly at home those words were in your mind and heart before you spoke them.

- Our confession of sins needs to go _____.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

- True, deep, regular confession of sin can only flow from someone who is _____ of God's love.

Without the confidence of God's forgiveness we try to _____ our sins (even from God), we try to _____ our sins, and we try to _____ others (even God).

- God _____ in confession because he _____ in forgiving.

Luke 15: ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What is humility?
2. How does God show humility in the circumstances around the birth of Jesus?
3. Unlike God's humility, humble people are aware of their sin. What should we do when recognize that we have sinned?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The promised Messiah was born in obscurity, but after his death and resurrection, he was exalted as King of the world. In the humble circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth, we see God's love for all people in every nation.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Think of someone you have known who demonstrated deep humility. How would you describe their humility?
3. Read Luke 2:1-7. Reading this reference to Augustus, Luke's first readers would have been reminded that the emperor was considered to be the son of the divine, that is, "a son of God." Meanwhile, in the obscurity of Judea, a baby was about to be born who would literally challenge the most powerful empire in the world and inaugurate a kingdom that would eclipse Rome's. What do we learn from the way Luke has contrasted the power and authority of Caesar Augustus with the birth of the baby Jesus?

THEOLOGICAL THEME

Christ's humble birth demonstrates the nature and extent of his kingdom.