**RISE UP** in 2021

March 21, 2021

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**The Lighthouse Effect**

***The Way of the Humble***

1 Samuel 25



**In this series entitled The Lighthouse Effect,** we have talked about the fact that lighthouses serve as guiding beacons, signaling for vessels to beware and steer clear of protentional dangers, or to signal “come this way for safe harbor.”

Pastor Jerry shared in the first message of this series that **the world is full of darkness.** People are **living in darkness,** and **without Jesus, people remain in darkness**. **Jesus is the light** that the prophet Isaiah spoke about.

*The people who walked in darkness* ***have seen a great light****; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,* ***on them has light shone****.* Isaiah 9:2

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “****I am the light of the world.*** *Whoever follows me* ***will not walk in darkness****, but* ***will have the light of life****.”* John 8:12

If His **life** is in you, then let His **light** shine **through** you.

**We are lighthouses ...** if He lives in us. The way we **live** and **love** shines light on the way to Jesus so that others can find the life that only He can provide.

*“You are the light of the world…* ***let your light shine before others****, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

So far, we have talked about how we are to **shine a light on goodness**. To look for the good in things, to emphasize it, because where there is good, there is God. Last week Pastor Brian shared that when we live in faith, that **our faith in God shines a light on God’s faithfulness**. And today, we look at the Christ-like characteristic of **humility**.

Humility is one of Jesus’ irresistible qualities, and **Philippians 2 instructs us to …**

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ***but emptied himself****, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form,* ***he humbled himself*** *by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

**Peter tells us to clothe ourselves with humility towards one another.**

**Humility** - The word humility finds its origin in the Latin word humilis, meaning “low to the ground." Being humble is **not** about being critical of oneself - but it is recognizing our “**appropriate smallness.”**

Humility’s opposite is **pride**, Pride is part of our sinful nature and   
it is sneaky. It can masquerade itself as something else in us,

such as knowledge, expertise, confidence, intelligence, independence, busyness, sarcasm, and even humor.

**Where has pride shown up in your life?**

* A high opinion of self or your opinion
* A need to be right
* A critical view of others
* A poor reaction when someone challenges your ego
* A lack of deflecting praise and credit
* A task being “beneath you”
* A desire to defend or avenge yourself

Pride says, "**Me first**," but humility allows us to say, "No, **you first**."

There is great **wisdom** in humility.

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace,*

*but* ***with humility*** *comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 NIV*

**Abigail’s Humility – 1 Samuel 25**

*Now the name of the man was* ***Nabal****, and the name of his wife* ***Abigail****.* *The woman was* ***discerning*** *and beautiful, but the man was* ***harsh*** *and badly behaved; he was a Calebite.* 1 Samuel 25:3

*‘Therefore let my young men find* ***favor in your eyes****, for we come on a feast day. Please give* ***whatever you have at hand*** *to your servants and to your son David.’* **1 Samuel 25:7-8**

*10 And Nabal answered David's servants,* ***“Who is David?*** *Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. 11 Shall I take* ***my bread and my water and my meat******that I have killed*** *for my shearers and give it to men who come from* ***I do not know where****?”* **1 Samuel 25:10-11**

**Nabal’s Pride** = inflation of self, judgement of others, lack of generosity, harshness

*13 And David said to his men, “****Every man strap on his sword****!” And every man of them strapped on his sword.* ***David also strapped on his sword****. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.* **1 Samuel 25:13**

Pride is a ticking **time** **bomb**.

* It causes us to be reactive.
* It causes us to be easily offended.
* It causes us to defend/avenge ourselves.
* It causes us to notice the shortcomings of others.
* It causes us to be poor listeners.
* It causes us conflicts, because it asks the question: **Who is right?**
* Pride is not only wrong – it is **ignorant**.

Pride is a hidden reef that **shipwrecks** the soul.

Pride comes at a great **cost**.

*Pride goes before* ***destruction****, and a haughty spirit before a* ***fall****.*  **Proverbs 16:18**

James 4 tell us that God **opposes** the proud. Why?

God **resists** the proud because the **proud** resist God.

Pride **hides** the light of Christ in our lives.

Pride comes at a high **cost**, but you do not have to **pay** it.

*14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, “Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and* ***he railed at them****.”* **1 Samuel 25:14**

*“****Now*** *therefore* ***know this*** *and* ***consider what you should do****, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and* ***he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him****.”*

**1 Samuel 25:17**

*23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and* ***fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground****. 24 She fell at his feet and said, “****On me alone****, my lord,* ***be the guilt****. Please let your* ***servant*** *speak in your ears, and hear the words of your* ***servant****.* **1 Samuel 25:23-24a**

*26 Now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, because* ***the Lord has restrained you from bloodguilt*** *and from* ***saving with your own hand****, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal.* **1 Samuel 25:26**

*32“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 Blessed be your* ***discretion****, and blessed be* ***you****,* ***who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand!*** **1 Samuel 25:32-33**

Abigail’s humility diffuses the situation.

Humility **diffuses** bombs.

* It leads us to be responsive.
* It makes us less offendable.
* It allows us to trust God to avenge us as He sees fit.
* It resolves conflicts, because it asks the right question: **What is right**?
* It helps us to notice the giftedness in others.
* It draws us toward God.
* It makes us better listeners.
* It makes us better leaders.
* It helps us empathize with others more.
* It helps us see the potential in others.
* It gives us greater resolve when things do not go our way.
* It makes us more emotionally stable.
* Humility is not only right – it is **wise**!

Because it allows God to be God, and you to reflect His goodness = **Appropriate Smallness**.

Humility reflects the light that can **save** every soul.

Humility comes with great **reward**.

1. God **guides** and **teaches** the humble. - Psalm 25:9
2. God gives **grace** to the humble. - 1 Peter 5:5
3. God gives **wisdom** to the humble. - Proverbs 11:2
4. God gives **honor** to the humble. - Proverbs 18:12; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6

So in order to be a lighthouse that His light shines through, let’s put on our **appropriate smallness. And remember:**

1. It is not about **you**.

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,* *complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but* ***in humility count others more significant than yourselves****.* **Philippians 2:1-3**

1. Allow God to be **God**.

*Do not say, “I will repay evil”;* ***wait for the Lord****, and* ***he will deliver you****.* **Proverbs 20:22**

1. Let His **light** shine through **you**.

*“****You are the light of the world****. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way,* ***let your light shine before others****, so that they may* ***see your good works*** *and* ***give glory to your Father*** *who is in heaven.*

**Matthew 25:14-16**

There is great wisdom in humility!