

*“The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who **humble** themselves will be exalted.”* Mat 23: 11,12

Definition of Humility

Humility can be defined as the absence of pride, just as darkness is the absence of light. C.S. Lewis describes humility not as thinking less of ourselves, but as thinking of ourselves less. A humble person **does not believe that they are better than other people.**

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet John 13:1-17

Five signs of a humble and serving saint:

Security comes from their true identity as a child of Christ John 13:3

*“Jesus **knew** that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had **come** from God and was **returning** to God...”*

Eager to meet a need: DWIT (Do Whatever It Takes) John 13:4

*“So he **got up** from the meal, **took off** his outer clothing, and **wrapped** a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he **poured** water into a basin and began to **wash** his disciples’ feet, **drying** them with the towel that was **wrapped** around him.”*

Remaining teachable—be a good follower Matt 13: 3-23 Four kinds of hearts:

- **Hard hearts:** Hear don’t understand...Evil one snatches away...not open...not seeking
- **Rocky/Shallow hearts** ... hear... receive... w/joy...no root...not deep...problems... persecution... seeking but only living with mountain top experiences , but not everyday disciplines, such as prayer, bible study, fasting.
- **Thorny hearts...** Hear... accept...crowded by cares: worries, takes, fear and the lure of wealth...nothing produced of lasting value...seeking but not exclusive, loyalty to the truth. Looking for significance, security, and success beyond Christ.
- **Good hearts---** accept and produce 30, 60, 100 fold. **Seeks**, goes **deep**, and **remains** singly focused on God, bothered by cares or led by cash. Results will vary. Don’t compare w/ others, you can’t control the results. Just be faithful.

Vigilant at listening—People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Listening shows you care. Seek to understand before speaking.

Emulating Christ Phil 2:1-11--*“Let nothing be done out of strife or conceit, but in **humility** let each esteem the other better than himself. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also **to the interests of others.**”*

“Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36)

“The merciful are blessed, for they will be shown mercy” (Matt 5:7)

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.” (Psalm 103:8)

Definition of Mercy:

- 1) Feeling the pain of others, then taking steps to alleviate it.
- 2) Not returning evil for evil or seeking recompense (punishment, rebuke, or criticism) when others wrong me, but showing mercy and treating others well, no matter how they've treated me. Caring more for who the person is than what the person has done.

What does a heart of mercy look like?

H
E
A
R
T

Questions:

- 1) What truth from this message spoke to your heart this morning?
- 2) What next steps do you need to take to apply it in your daily life?
- 3) Which two aspects of mercy challenge you the most and why?
- 4) Why did Jesus use the boy’s lunch? What does this mean in your life?
- 5) What does the bread represent and what do the leftovers mean?
- 6) Why did the loving father embrace his son instead of stoning him?
- 7) How does the cross of Christ represent His mercy towards us?