



## Week 19 - January 20th Barnabas – A Man of HUMILITY

In a culture that so often rewards the proud, a world quick to admire and applaud the prideful, and a world eager to bestow the label “great” on these same individuals -- humility occasionally attracts some surprising attention.

Take, for example, the bestselling book *Good to Great*. Since 2001, this leadership manual from Jim Collins has become one of the most popular and influential in the business world. I rarely meet a leader who hasn't read it. The book is driven by this question: Can a good company become a **great** company, and if so, how? To find the answer, Collins and a team of researchers spent 5 years studying 11 corporations that had made the leap from being merely *good* companies to being *great* ones.

I had the chance to hear Jim Collins speak on this topic to an audience of pastors and business leaders. In his presentation, Collins identified two specific character qualities shared by the CEOs of these good-to-great companies.

The first was no surprise: These men and women possessed incredible professional will -- they were driven, willing to endure anything to make their company a success.

But the second trait these leaders had in common wasn't something the researchers expected to find; these driven leaders were self-effacing and modest. They consistently pointed to the contribution of others and didn't like drawing attention to themselves. “The good-to-great leaders never wanted to become larger-than-life heroes,” Collins writes. “They never aspired to be put on a pedestal or become unreachable icons. They were seemingly ordinary people quietly producing extraordinary results.”

When Collins interviewed people who worked for these leaders, he says they “continually used words like *quiet, humble, modest, reserved, shy, gracious, mild-mannered, self-effacing, understated, did not believe his own clippings*; and so forth” to describe them.

Source: *Humility: True Greatness* by C.J. Mahaney

Barnabas was not a “larger-than-life hero.” He was a man of humility with a servant's heart. He didn't defend Paul for his own sake or to earn recognition. In his humility, he sought out evidences of grace in others and acted upon it.

### Scripture

Read Isaiah 66:1-4 and I Peter 5:6-7

### Discovery Questions

Isaiah 66:1-4. In this passage, God is addressing the Israelites – His chosen people. The Israelites possessed much and were a blessed nation, but they lacked humility before God.

1. According to dictionary.com, “*to esteem*” means: “to regard highly or favorably.” Those who are esteemed are noticed. Re-read Isaiah 66:2. To whom does God esteem? What does this mean to me?

I Peter 5:6-7

2. According to verse 5, who does God oppose? What does he give to those who are humble?

3. How do we humble ourselves before God? (v. 7)

4. When we do this, what will be the result/outcome? (vs. 6-7)

## **Journaling**

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

**Prayer:** Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Lord, I want to be noticed by you. I long to be in your presence. Please reveal areas of pride in my life and weaken them.
- Father God, Jesus was a perfect living example of humility. He came to earth to serve. Please give me a servant's heart and cultivate humility within me.
- Dear Jesus, in everything I do may you be glorified – may all the credit and glory be transferred to you.