



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Humility: I am not the Messiah

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: John 1:19-23

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

John 1: 19:23 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

John the Baptist was a man who followed God all the days of his life. John would get words from God at different seasons in his life and had strong words of rebuke for the religious leaders. He had an accurate assessment of himself – he understood his calling and his identity when it came to Jesus. John had enough self-awareness to know who he was and who he wasn't and was able to hold both of those spaces and be content. He refused to live a comparing and competitive life and was free to share his ministry with Jesus and shine the light on Jesus and not himself.

We are tempted to live as the Messiah. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble, opening doors to those who are humble. The humble person can name their limitations, while the proud person cannot name their limitations.

Humility recognizes that change comes, and I must become less ("I must decrease, He must increase"). The humble person realizes that they can't be everything to everyone, that they cannot rescue people and that they can't change anybody -- only God can do this. The freest people know they are not the Messiah, because they know there is no competition and nothing to compete for.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less --CS Lewis

How do we shape humility in our lives?

- We need to have life of prayer.
- We need to be able to say: "this is who I am, and this is who I am not."
- We need to behold God and know that God is the only person who can truly rescue us.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Lead Pastor, Richard Villodas continues his series on humility, preaching on how John the Baptist is a model of humility helping us remember that we are not the messiah.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?

2. In your family of origin, who was in charge? Who was it everyone listened to? What effects good or bad did that have for the family and that person?
3. Do you feel you have an accurate assessment of yourself? Do you ever try and act like someone you aren't? What are your limitations -- relationally, at work, in your family, at church or school?
4. Can you be content with your limitations?
5. This week name your gifts and your limitations. Hold them both and bring them to the Lord and receive Him. Both our gifts and limitations come from Him.