



Big Idea: God exalts the humble.

- **HUMILITY** is one of the main themes of the book of Luke (Luke 18:9-14, Luke 14:7-11).
- Definition: Humility is the servant mindset of Christ which focuses upon God, trusts His character, lives to bless others, and seeks to exalt and glorify of God in and through all things He has given.

1.) Humble people seek the **SERVANT** mindset of Christ (v. 38).

- The servant mindset of Christ begins with the understanding that we are servants of Christ.
 - Truly humble people understand themselves as having no right to stand in judgment of our infinitely wise and perfectly just God.
 - To doubt or denounce what is obviously revealed in Scripture is an exercise in arrogance (Romans 9:20, James 4:12, Luke 22:42).
- Humble believers see themselves as no **BETTER** than others.
 - Elizabeth defers to her younger relative, gladly acknowledging that Mary's child will be superior to her own.
 - Philippians 2:3, Romans 12:16, Mark 10:43-45

2.) Humble people set their **FOCUS** upon God (v. 43, 46-55).

- Few passages anywhere in the Bible better demonstrate humble concentration upon God than Mary's poem of praise (v. 46-55).

- One sign of a humble heart is an abundance of biblical reflection and prayer.
 - Because they see themselves as dependent upon God, humble people set their focus upon God and call upon Him often in prayer (Psalm 86:1-4).
 - Pride is not just an arrogant attitude toward others; it is also a **SELF SUFFICIENT** attitude toward God.
- Through steadfast focus upon God, humble people become gloriously overwhelmed by God's undeserved grace and goodness (Psalm 116:12-16).

3.) Humble people recognize and trust the **CHARACTER** of God.

- Humble believers live with uncompromised assurance because they know who God is and rehearse His character often (Psalm 9:10).
- Humble trust in God is ubiquitous in Mary's Magnificat (v. 49-55).
- Mary's song of praise to God was spoken in the midst of extremely harrowing circumstances.
- In trials, humble believers thank God for the chance to demonstrate faith and for the good He promises to bring through them. (Psalm 119:67-71, James 1:2-4).

4.) Humble people live to **BLESS** others (v. 42-45).

- The desire to bless others is apparent in the beautifully uncommon deference that Elizabeth shows to her younger relative, Mary.
 - Humble people genuinely rejoice in the blessings of others (Rom. 12:15).
 - Humble people can rejoice with those who rejoice because they are thoroughly satisfied by the grace God has given us in Christ.
- The freedom to live as a blessing to others begins with an eternal perspective of the hope we have in Christ.

5.) Humble people long to exalt and **GLORIFY** God (v. 46-55).

- This desire lies at the very heart of the testimony Mary offers in v. 46-55.
- There are only two ways to live this life: You can live for empty glories or for the glory of God, but you cannot live for both.

Application

- As much as any other virtue, **CHRISTMAS** exalts and commands humility.
- The astonishing humility of Christ is everywhere apparent in the account of the first Christmas.
- If we would live in the true spirit of Christmas, then we simply must live as **HUMBLE** people (Philippians 2:5-8, James 4:6, 10).