

Humility, Chapter 12: A Legacy of Greatness

Note: Though this chapter is about leaving a legacy of greatness for *your children* (and you're all thinking, "But I don't have any kids...are you kidding?"), please don't think this chapter isn't for you! Read on and see God's implications for you now...and for your children down the road, if the Lord wills!

Memory Verse: Mark 9:35 Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

1. Mahaney says that, "Rarely are we (he and his son, Chad) together when this (the importance and promise of humility) isn't a part of our conversation." How often are "the importance and promise of humility" a part of YOUR conversations with others? Make this a priority in at least one conversation THIS week and be prepared to share what transpired.

2. Think ahead to when you have children, Lord willing. Be honest! List the "ambitions" you think you'd have for your children.

3. Now go over that list above. Which "ambitions" are genuinely based in Scripture? Which ambitions do you think you'd be tempted to allow to become more important to you than the "cultivation of humility and servanthood?"

4. What does Mahaney say parenting is "mostly about?" (pg. 158)

5. What does it mean to adopt true greatness as your ambition 1) now, with those over whom you may have influence (siblings, school-for those who are teaching, youth group, kids in Sunday School or VBS, babysitting, etc.) and 2) someday, in the lives of your own children, Lord willing? Mahaney gives several things on pages 158-161.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

Being an Example to our Children

6. In what way is EVERY believer called to be an example and of whom are we to be an example? Note what God says in the following verses.

a. 1 Cor. 11:1

b. Eph. 5:1

c. Phil. 3:17

d. Phil. 4:9

7. Mahaney says that we should never divorce biblical instruction from personal example (pg. 159).

a. Why do you think he says this?

b. What can happen if such a division exists between instruction and personal example? (Consider what happens in our own lives as well as in the lives of those around us.)

Defining True Greatness for our Children

8. We know from Eph. 6:4 that parents are to train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Therefore, based on the verses we've already looked at, parents certainly must teach their children about "true greatness." According to Mahaney on page 159, what does greatness equal and what does it NOT equal? Can you find Biblical support for his comments about what greatness does NOT equal?

9. Who do YOU most admire and why? (Be honest!) Consider...Who do you talk about most passionately? Most often? Most enthusiastically? Most want to be like? Think is great? Is this person truly great, by God's standard?

Teaching our Children to Admire True Greatness

10. What practical recommendations does Mahaney give on page 160 as a means to teach someone to admire true greatness? Begin applying these ideas in whatever sphere of influence the Lord has given you!

Honoring Parents

11. How does Mahaney suggest “capitalizing” on the time after church in the endeavor to teach children to admire true greatness? How can you personally apply this principle now?

12. Why is teaching children to honor their parents important, as it pertains to humility? How does our society discourage honoring our parents and even justify dishonoring our parents?

13. Does the command to honor your parents have limitations, such as “only up to a certain age” or “unless they aren’t believers”?

a. Do you personally honor your parents? If so, how is that demonstrated? Have you expressed appreciation to them recently? If not, please do so THIS week.

b. Do you think of your parents as being “great” by God’s standard? If you don’t tend to see your parents as “servants,” regardless of whether or not they are believers, ask the Lord to show you ways in which they DO serve you and their family.

If you are unfamiliar with the heroes of the Christian faith, those who are wonderful examples of humility and true greatness, consider reading or listening to biographies of the lives of these saints. There are lots of books and messages you can utilize to become more familiar with “true greatness.” There are biographies written for every age, children to adults! You can also listen (for free ☺) to the biographies of many heroes of the faith in messages delivered by John Piper: <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Biographies/>

Teaching our Children to Serve

14. You may or may not have grown up serving alongside your family. Regardless of your upbringing, begin thinking now of places where you currently serve that you could bring someone along to serve with you. Consider such things as: the Compassion Ministry on Wed. nights, teaching at a Bible Club, helping build a home in Mexico, visiting the elderly, etc.

15. In whatever sphere of influence the Lord’s given you in the lives of others (siblings, school-for those who are teaching, youth group, kids in Sunday School or VBS, babysitting, etc.), how can you specifically apply the truths and instructions of this chapter?

A Final Word

16. Remember where we began this study in Is. 66:2. How many in history have perfectly obeyed or fulfilled the picture in Is. 66:2?

17. How does Phil. 2:5-8 further explain Christ's demonstration of humility? Spend some time in prayer, thanking Jesus for His humility and obedience to go to the cross for you.

18. What has impacted you most profoundly in our study on humility? (It may be a verse, an idea or a particular application or example.) Review your lessons from this study and write out some of the lessons God has been teaching you through this study. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more room. ☺

19. As we conclude this study on humility, what steps does Mahaney suggest on pg. 168-170 if you've been convicted of pride? (If you haven't been convicted of your own pride, it's time to re-read the book and ask God's Holy Spirit to work on your heart! ☺)

20. Spend some time in prayer, declaring war on your pride and asking the Lord to help you live out a life of humility, a life of true greatness.

Ultimately, there can be no effective expansion of your life's mission and ministry, no fulfillment of the specific purpose He's called you to, apart from the cultivation of humility in your heart and the weakening of pride in your life. (pg. 169)

Though we are concluding this study, your life-long pursuit of true greatness is really just beginning!!

From everyone who has been given much, much will be required. Luke 12:48.