

Cultivating a Ministry Culture of Meekness

I. PREPARING IHOP-KC FOR THE DAYS AHEAD

- A. We are committed to work continually to cultivate a ministry culture of humility. We anticipate an increase of God’s presence with an increase of staff, influence, and finances. This increase has many blessings and many burdens. This increase will bring challenges that will necessitate that we grow in humility. It will not be enough to have the appearance or reputation of it.
- B. The challenges of more people: longer lines, more demands, differing values, far more people wanting the small number of roles on the platform or leadership positions in the organization
- C. The challenges of more ministry influence: stewarding increased opportunity and criticism
- D. The challenges of more power or revelation: resisting the temptation to draw attention to ourselves and resisting the fear to draw back in proclaiming unpopular truths

II. JOSEPH’S DUNGEON: A CALL TO HUMILITY (APRIL 1984)

- A. In April 1984, I heard the audible voice of God say, ***“I have a revelation for you. Call Bob Jones.”*** then later said ***“It will begin in 10 years with the wine of the Spirit.”*** Bob Jones said, “I had a powerful visitation from the Lord and He wants me to give it to you.” He said that in an open vision, he visited Joseph’s dungeon seeing a cupbearer and a baker (Gen. 40:2-19). They represented two ministries in prison being accused of having poison in their service to the king.
- B. One ministry would be proven guilty and then put to death (baker), while the other (cupbearer) would be found innocent and exalted to serve wine in the presence of the king. The poison in the baker’s bread was killing God’s family. ***The poison was that their ministry did not produce humility in God’s family.*** The Lord was going to remove ministries represented by the baker.
- C. The Lord said to Bob, ***“I will exalt My cupbearers to serve wine in the presence of the king.”*** He showed him that His “cupbearers” would end their season of testing to serve wine in the presence of the king; ***it will begin in ten years with the wine of the Spirit*** (Spring 1994). God showed Bob that He would use the “wine” to humble many in the Body of Christ.
- D. The end-time movement of God will be established on humility. The Lord will remove the ministries that refuse humility. God wants to give “more” to ministries without drawing attention to ourselves. John the Baptist, as a friend of the Bridegroom, drew attention to Jesus not himself.

⁵ For we do not preach [proclaim] ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. (2 Cor. 4:5)

¹⁹ To send Timothy to you...²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own...²² But you know his proven character... (Phil. 2:19-22)

- E. With the increase in God’s power and revelation will also come an increase in the temptation to draw attention to ourselves and to draw back in proclaiming unpopular truths because of fear.
⁷ Lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted... (2 Cor. 12:7)
- F. God’s purpose for releasing the “wine of His Spirit” is to test His people with humility while renewing hearts and imparting the Father’s love and joy. The groups tested with humility are:
Group #1: those who are anointed to impart the “wine” to others are attacked in different ways
Group #2: those who resist the “wine” because of unfamiliarity or it not being released by them
Group #3: those who exaggerate the Spirit’s manifestations (seeking to draw attention to self)
- G. One purpose for our season of renewal was to give us a practice run at responding in humility with an increase of His presence. He dropped a plumbline in our midst to measure us with humility. He gave us opportunity to grow in humility by being criticized, passed by (in platform ministry), being touched or used by the Spirit (exaggerating it and/or drawing attention to ourselves) or by not being touched or used (becoming critical and/or refusing to pray for others).

III. THE CALL TO MEEKNESS

- A. In our zeal for the Spirit’s activity, we discern the things the Spirit considers excellent.
⁹ I pray that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent...till the day of Christ... (Phil. 1:9-10)
- B. Expressions of meekness in life together: being considerate of others in all things
Expressions of meekness in public ministry: in our teaching content and ministry style
Expression of meekness in leadership authority: those with more power take less privilege
Expression of meekness when overlooked or mistreated: serving as unto the Lord instead of man
Expression of meekness in valuing other ministries: resisting an elite or independent spirit
³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind... (Phil. 2:3)
- C. We cultivate revelation that the Father sees and cares about our efforts to walk godly and serve others even when others do not. He is our audience and we seek His applause.
¹ Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father...² When you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do...they have their reward...⁴ Your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you. (Mt. 6:1-4)
- D. Paul contrasted two ways of living: to live as unto God or as unto man, i.e., to live seeking the applause of God or of men. Eyeservice speaks of serving to gain the applause and recognition of men by serving with more humility, generosity, diligence, and purity when someone is watching. Do we get offended after we serve diligently and are ignored or criticized for our labors?
⁶ Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers ...but... ⁷ as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord... (Eph. 6:6-8)