

HUMBLE SPIRITUALITY

I was contemplating, what is the common thread that ran through all the messages that I've shared in five years?

If I can boil everything down from about 250 messages (many I've shared twice because we had multiple services for most of our church history), so 400 presentations (300 hours) - to a few words, what would those words be?

What has been a constant source of excitement?

There were things I used to be excited about but I'm not anymore.
There were some things I believed, that I don't believe anymore.
There are somethings I practiced, that I don't practice anymore.
There were some things I was hoping for, that I don't hope for anymore.

But I found something that has excited me for all five years, and it still excites me today. I'm pretty sure I'll still be excited about it in five years from now...because this obsession began almost 20 years ago...and I fasted 200 days in two years as a college student, because I was wanting to experience more....

HUMBLE SPIRITUALITY.

I'm not claiming that we are the only ones who have this emphasis, I'm just saying it is our emphasis...

My relationship with humility is a lot like my relationship with basketball. It's been a longtime obsession. I like to think about it. It gets me excited. But I don't get to practice as much as I want to, and I'm not close to being a professional.

Yet this is what I dream of Jesus Center being known for.

In computer terms, if this building is the hardware, I dream of HUMBLE SPIRITUALITY being our operating system. I dream that we can embody this as a community, this would be the obvious culture.

I dream that we can see a HUMBLE SPIRITUALITY enjoyed and expressed here in this community.

Humble Spirituality is what Jesus modeled, and it ought to be what we pursue.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

The opposite of humble spirituality, is proud spirituality, and it repels God. I want to repel what repels God, and yet humility attracts God’s favor.

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” (1 Peter 5b-6)

Humility ought to be what we practice towards one another. Those who embrace a humble spirituality, God will lift them up. We always dreamed that this would be a company of influential, successful, gifted people, who will influence our world and make it look more like heaven. Yet those who are raised up are those who embody a humble spirituality.

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” (Isaiah 57:15)

The word revival has been a popular one. In fact, if you know anything about our history, in 2009, I was woken up in the middle of the night, hearing a voice that trumpeted “Revival is coming to the South Bay!” Then, I had a vision of a white building that read REVIVAL CENTER...that’s why we called this building project the Revival Center project. Since 2009, I knew, one day I would come to the South Bay to be part of establishing a Revival Center.

What does revival look like? The picture is a dry desert turning into a lush garden. Someone who is discouraged, depressed, oppressed, exhausted, beat up, and burnt out, having renewed hope, vision, vigor, zest, and strength. Now for revival to come to a region, what would that look like? It can look like a lot of things.

However, what we saw through the writings of Isaiah the Prophet, revival comes to the spirit of humble. Those who practice Humble Spirituality are positioned for perpetual revival.

1. Timeless Identity

Not what we become and became but what begot us.

We grow in the revelation.

We know not just the God of correction, but the God of affirmation.

Humility is not insecurity, but we must be freedom from insecurity.

Our mirrors become our lenses.

The true self is that we are the beloved of God, the product of the Spirit of God.

The false self is a protective layer of ego that keeps the true self from emerging.

We can connect core to core as we are delivered of the false self.

2. Becoming Love

This is the goal of our journey on earth.

We were created to be like God.

Being religious is not the same as becoming love.

To become love, it's a process.

We begin in innocence, then arrogance, then failure, then humility, grace, and godliness.

God will work all things together for good.

Let's keep walking the bridge and not get stuck.

It's important not to prize perfection or innocence, over godliness.

The person who is forgiven much loves much.

Let's allow our failures even to lead us into humility.

When you become love, there is a tenderness and compassion towards others.

3. Heart Healing

We want to manage pain well, by not just speaking in an accusatory way, but addressing our pain.

Heart healing happens as we discover our core wounds that come from our primary relationships.

We need to identify the lies that we believe and replace them with truth.

We can tune into the Spirit of Truth.

We break unwanted patterns as our hearts are further healed.

We contribute to or attract certain things from reoccurring by the judgments in our own hearts.

New setting, new cast, but same story is the result of bitter judgments that have defiled our hearts. We either fall the same side, or the opposite extreme.

We continue to extend forgiveness towards our parents, our core relationships, and as we extend blessing, more blessing returns.

4. Empowering Relationships

The purpose of relationship is empowerment. We must learn purpose or abuse is inevitable.

Let's see how God does relationship. Let's be re-parented by God. Extend quality time, be a listener, believe in others. Let's be more interested in the people in our lives than the fictional characters on a screen. One of the greatest compliments we can ever receive is when somebody tells us, "Thank you for believing in me. I know I am where I am today because you believed in me." Empowering relationships create a fearless culture. We believe in speaking blessing. The way we see people is the way we will treat them. See their core. We believe in team humanity, and that people are not our true enemies. Yet, all that is less than God's best for our lives. Instead of calling those who are different than us "the lost", can we try to call them: "the deeply loved, the passionately pursued, the so wanted, the most significant, the truly missed, the absolutely welcomed, treasures"? We believe we can have unity in the midst of diversity through humility. We believe that we can love those we disagree with. Learn to be a servant.

5. Manifesting Leadership

We are all leaders in our own rights and ways.
Life is not a competition. Competition is irrelevant.