

How Can I Be Humble and Not Proud?

Lesson 45

Matthew 20:20-28

Memory Verse

Live together in peace with each other. Do not be proud, but make friends with everyone. Do not think about how smart you are. Romans 12:16 NCV

Introduction

Have you ever asked someone for a favor? Did they help you? In today's lesson, a mom asks Jesus a favor.

Scripture

Matthew 20:20-21

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

James and John were friends of Jesus. One day their mom came with them to talk to Jesus. Their mom bowed down to Jesus and asked Him to do a favor for her.

Discussion

Jesus asked her what she wanted.

Ask: What did the mother of James and John ask Jesus?

She asked Him to promise her that James would sit on one side of Jesus' throne in heaven and that John would sit on the other side. She knew that if Jesus was the king in heaven, whoever was sitting next to Him would have a very high place in the kingdom. She knew that they would be very powerful and very popular.

Matthew 20:22

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

Ask: What was Jesus' response?

Jesus looked at her and the brothers and told them that a position like that would come about by much pain and suffering.

Matthew 20:22-23

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Discussion

Ask: What was the response James and John gave?

The brothers told Jesus that they were willing to suffer to sit next to Jesus in heaven. Jesus explained that they had no idea what it would be like to suffer pain or even die for believing.

Ask: What did Jesus say?

Jesus told them that God would decide who sat next to Him.

Matthew 20:24

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

Ask: What did the disciples do when they heard what was happening?

While this discussion was going on, Jesus' other friends heard what happened and were angry with James and John. They could not believe that they had asked Jesus such a question.

Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Just then, Jesus called all His friends together to teach them an important lesson.

Ask: What did Jesus say to His disciples about wanting to be important?

He told them that if a person wanted to be important and popular, that person must be willing to be a servant. They must be willing to let someone else be first.

Ask: Why did Jesus say He came?

After that, Jesus told His friends that He did not come for people to serve Him. He told them that He came to serve and to give His life for all people.

His disciples did not understand what Jesus was talking about. They could not imagine what was going to happen soon.

Application

Ask: What is the difference between being proud and being humble?

Jesus wants us to be humble and think about others before we think about ourselves. He does not want us to boast or brag. Instead, He wants us to care for others and accept them. Jesus showed us how to be humble by His example. Remember that He was in Heaven with God before He came to earth as a baby. Instead of being proud, He became a servant and helped others. Even more, Jesus substituted Himself on the cross to die for all our sins. That's real humility. We should care for others in the same way.

Jesus really did give His life to help us. When Jesus died on a cross, He did not die because of something wrong that He had done. He took our place and died for all the bad stuff we have done wrong. He took all our sin on Himself and died to pay the price for all the sin we had done. The best news is that Jesus did not stay dead! Three days later Jesus was resurrected. Because He is alive, we can go to Heaven and be with Him one day. We can do this if we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our lives and take away all the bad stuff we have done. He cleans out our life and makes us into a new person on the inside. Jesus did all this for us!

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and have new life.