

Humble Servants
II Corinthians 4:1-7

Review:

1. While it is important to know the truth, it is just as important to living according to the truth that we proclaim – to live lives of integrity
2. In order to stop focusing on ourselves and what we want, we have to focus on Jesus as Messiah and Lord.
3. Such a focus on Christ encourages humility before God and before other people.
4. The only way to truly follow Christ is to live such a life of humility, because humility was the hallmark of His life and death.

Go further: Read Matthew 23:1-12

1. In verses 1 and 2, why did Jesus tell people to listen carefully to the words of the scribes and Pharisees? What does this tell us about the way we should treat our own religious leaders? What is the basis of their authority?
2. Why did Jesus tell them not to do what those religious leaders did?
3. What is the problem Jesus identifies in verse 4? What sorts of burdens do religious leaders sometimes place on people today?
4. What is the problem Jesus identifies in verse 5? While we don't wear phylacteries and tassels, what kinds of things might we be tempted to do to make others think well of us?
5. What problem does Jesus identify in verse 6? What's wrong with leaders receiving respect from their followers?
6. What does verse 8 tell us about how we should treat those who teach us?
7. What does verse 9 tell us about how we should treat those in authority over us?
8. What does verse 10 tell us about how we should treat those who lead and guide us?
9. What does verse 11 tell us is the way to achieve true greatness in this life?
10. What does verse 12 tell us will happen to those who exalt themselves?
11. What does verse 12 tell us will happen to those who humble themselves?

Apply:

1. Think of a leader you had who didn't always practice what he told you to do. What practical steps can we take to work with them in spite of their inconsistencies?
2. How can we show respect to our religious leaders in a healthy, Christ-honoring way?
3. How can we more consistently pursue humility in our daily lives?