



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Mothers Day, Lesson 58

Lesson Title: Moms Shine Like a Star

Take Home Point: Moms shine like a star when they serve with Jesus' love.

Warm-Up:

Satan loves to divide and conquer. He knows it makes his job of destroying us much easier. One of his favorite techniques to divide is generating pride, the belief that one person or group is better than another in some way. Unfortunately, his task is already made easier by the attitudes and actions of people. Most, if not all, human religions encourage it and even require it. Consider India's caste system as an example. Worse, even Christians have falsely used the words of the Bible to rationalize their pride and superiority over others. The justification for slavery that issued from pulpits went on far too long in our country and provides a tragic illustration of this. Only the love of Jesus can conquer the attitudes of hatred and superiority that Satan provokes.

Read: Philippians 2:2-8, 14-16

Observation (What happened?):

What is the key attitude Paul wants each of us to have?

What are we holding out to the world when we shine like stars?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What is at the core of Christian humility? How is it different from humility apart from Jesus?

How does Paul's direction to not complain or argue fit in with his topic of humility?

Insight:

What does it mean to "consider others better than yourself"? Are we to think poorly of ourselves, believing we are not worth consideration? Do we put ourselves down, saying we have nothing to offer anyone? No, that would not reconcile with the sacrificial love of God, nor does it agree with verses in the Bible telling us of the specific gifts God has given every one of his redeemed children. Notice what Paul writes in Philippians 2:4: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (NIV) It is not that others are superior or more talented or gifted, but that through the eyes of Christian love we see others as worthy of preferential treatment. That is what gives us the same attitude as Jesus. He knew he offered much to others as he did the Father's will; it is the same for us. That's how God wants us to see ourselves. We take care of ourselves – spiritually, emotionally, physically, mentally – with the attitude and motivation of obedience to God and preparation to serve the world around us. The world he wants to rescue through us as we serve in true Christian humility and unity.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are you doing to make your attitude more like that of Jesus? What can you do?

Pray that the children in your small group will see in you a model of Christian humility to follow.