

Study Notes: Building in Babylon: Walk Humbly

Message Summary

The spirit of Babylon is focused on self: self-glorification, self-gratification and self-advancement. It echoes the original deception in Eden, that humanity could be like God (Genesis 3:5), and our individualistic culture still prizes achievement, wealth and status above all else.

Jesus' way is countercultural: a path of humility (Micah 6:8). Success itself is not the issue. Daniel and his friends thrived in Babylon while still acknowledging God as their source and walking in His ways. The issue is the heart.

Philippians 2 shows us the mind of Christ: He served rather than using His authority, and humbled Himself in obedience to the Father, even to the cross. As we walk humbly like Him, people notice and God is exalted.

Key Points

- **Pride is mostly an internal heart attitude.** It extends beyond outward arrogance to stubbornness, defensiveness, insecurity, comparison and entitlement; the common thread is self.
- **True humility sits outside the spectrum of self-deprecation and arrogance.** It means acknowledging God first, then standing confidently in who He has made you to be and walking in His will.
- **Jesus served rather than used His authority, and humbled Himself to God's will (Philippians 2:6-8).** Having His mindset means not leveraging situations or people for our own advantage, and laying down our will for His, as He did in Gethsemane (Luke 22:42).
- **We lean away from reciprocity and into altruism (Philippians 2:3-4).** Society runs on trading favours; Jesus calls us to care for others at personal cost, without expecting anything in return.

Discussion Questions

1. The message warned that the spirit of Babylon erodes our humility little by little, often through insecurity, comparison or stubbornness. Where do you notice that erosion in your own life?
2. The message said true humility isn't a middle ground between putting yourself down and arrogance. Which of those do you lean towards, and what would it look like to stand confidently in who God has made you to be?
3. After the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says "Go and do the same" (Luke 10:37). What does it look like to practise genuine altruism toward someone who cannot repay you?