

Send It - Week 2

Humility or Humiliation - Ben Foote

February 27, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

2 Kings 5:1-15; Matthew 16:24-25; James 4:10.

// Message Summary

This Sunday we were in our second week of *Send It*, our series on faith. “Send it!” are the words we shout when we are about to take that leap into the beyond, and past the point of no return. In the first week, Pastor Jim explained how faith is the confidence that God is who He says He is and assurance that He will keep every promise that He has ever made to us. This week, Ben Foote asked the question, “What does it look like to take a step of faith?” Taking a step of faith requires us to act in humility. It is an act of faith to humble ourselves before God, to allow Him control over every area of our lives, and to allow Him to define what is meaningful and important. God desires us to humble ourselves before Him, because He knows the alternative to humility is humiliation - eventually our actions catch up to us. As a loving God, He calls us to humble ourselves first, and to hand to Him the areas of our lives where healing is so desperately needed.

// Biblical and Historical Context

Ben opened with the story of Naaman, the mighty commander of Aram’s (roughly the place of modern Syria) military, from 2 Kings, chapter 5. The books of 1 and 2 Kings are historical texts recording the era of approximately 900 - 500 BC. They detail the saga of Israel as it divides into adversarial northern and southern kingdoms that are eventually overrun by the Assyrian and Babylonian armies. Naaman came to see Elisha, a prophet from his rival Israel, to seek healing from his leprosy. Although we tend to think of a prophet as someone who predicts the future, this was only a small feature of the prophetic office in the Old Testament. More importantly, prophets were people who God raised to be His mouthpiece, reminding God’s people of His nature and character, His desires and commands, and the positive and negative consequences of our daily actions. Naaman’s healing in the waters of the River Jordan was God’s reminder that He desires all of humanity to turn to Him and experience the wholeness that only He can provide.

// Community Questions

1. If you could pick any waters in the world to go for a swim, where would you pick and why?
2. When you need help, who do you most often turn to?

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Matthew 16:24-25. What does this passage make you think?
2. Jesus said that anyone who wants to follow Him must **deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him**. The Greek word for 'deny' (*aparneomai*) means "to forget one's self, lose sight of one's self and one's own interests."

How would you describe what Jesus is calling His followers to do?

3. Has there been a time when you were so desperate for God's intervention, that you actively humbled yourself? If you're comfortable doing so, please share with the group.
4. Ben stated that a part of humbling ourselves before God is to say, "*Yes... you can even have THIS part of my life. This part that I've been keeping from you.*"

What might life look like if you made that decision?

5. God calls us to humble ourselves, and hand to Him the parts of our lives that will otherwise lead to destruction. What does this tell us about God's care and concern for us?

// Challenge

Ben shared this prayer:

Dear God,

I'm so afraid to open my clenched fists! Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to? Who will I be when I stand before you with empty hands? Please help me to gradually open my hands and to discover that I am not what I own, but what you want to give me. And what you want to give me is love – unconditional, everlasting love.

Amen.

Pray this prayer this week. Pray it often. Pray it when you know you need God's healing. Pray it when you don't know what you should do. And pray it when you do know what you should do, and you just don't want to do it.