

Week of February 19-25

This week's devotional-writer is Mark Kiburz. Mark serves on our Board of Elders and is currently pursuing his ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God.

HUMILITY

Scripture Reading: Read Mark Chapter 8

In the movie *"Facing the Giants,"* there is a scene in which a father and son secretly replace the coach's car with a brand new Ford pick-up truck. We watch the coach go through a series of emotions then get into his new pick-up truck and drive off. The camera pans to the father and son and the father tells his son "Don't tell anyone". Why did this man not want anyone to know what he had done? Humility!

In the Scripture reading in Mark 8, Jesus tells a blind man whom he healed not to tell anyone about it. Later on in the chapter, he commands his disciples in the same fashion. What? Don't tell anyone about Jesus? Why in the world would Jesus not want anyone to know who he was? It's because Jesus was to be the Messiah on his Father's terms not based on earthly expectations. By this time, crowds of people were following Jesus and looking for Him to perform miracles. The people's hearts were focusing on Jesus' supernatural actions rather than the Heavenly Father's plan. When Jesus instructed the blind man and the disciples not to tell anyone, he, in essence, was protecting His future on the cross from being overshadowed by His miracles. Jesus' ultimate mission was to die for our sins and not just heal or deliver people of diseases or demons.

Jesus gives us an earthly model of how we, as believers, are to walk with humility rather than wanting everyone to know what God is doing in us or through us. God desires to work in us for His Kingdom and for His glory. The psalmist drives this home when he writes in Psalm 115:1, *Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.*

So many times we want everyone to know how excited we are about God and what he is doing in and through us. Our testimonies become more about our stories rather than His story. When that happens, people can get caught up with us rather than with who God is. It's much better to follow the advice of King Solomon in Proverbs 27:2, *"Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips"* or Proverbs 17:27, *"A man of knowledge uses words with restraint..."*

Action Step: Do something selfless to help God's Kingdom this week and don't let anyone know about it.

Prayer Focus: Ask God to help you walk with humility.

Take-a-way: Jesus protected His future on the cross by not being prideful.