

In Healthcare for God's Service-Distinctive in Humility

(Suitable for use within a group over approximately one hour, or for an individual's personal Bible reading)

Thinking about life as a student in healthcare

1. Is humility a highly visible characteristic in your clinical placement? (Consider both your class mates and your instructors). If not, are there any aspects of the 'culture' of your classmates and/or work place that lends to such being the case?
2. Is humility a highly valued characteristic in your future workplace? Do the mechanisms of remuneration (financial/social/positional) within your work place reward those demonstrating humility? (Consider each remuneration mechanism separately).

What does God have to say?

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

Philippians 2:5-11 is part of a letter written by the Apostle Paul to Christians in Philippi (a Greek port) in AD 60. Paul wrote to the Philippians to thank them for a gift they sent him while he was in prison (Philippians 4:10-19), and more broadly for their sacrificial sharing with him that has facilitated his missionary work (Philippians 1:5; 4:14). Immediately prior to the paragraph we have just read, Paul urges the Philippians to again grasp the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection for them, and to respond to this reality in the way they treat one another (Philippians 2:1-4).

Putting it into practice

In Verse 5 Paul urges the Philippian Christians (and you and I) to adopt the same attitude that Jesus Christ approached life with; that of utter humility - a humility that has a preparedness to completely relinquish any entitlement one might have in order to benefit others (v 6-8).

1. Do you see this command as radical? Consider:
 - a. Firstly, the hierarchy of your future workplace. Can you envisage those who hold power, being willing to relinquish the personal entitlements their position brings for the benefit of the personnel they have authority over?
 - b. Secondly, what impact you might have on the way your non Christian colleagues view Jesus if you use your authority over patients and staff in a manner that corresponds with the attitudes Paul is urging of us here?
2. What might the cost (financial/social/positional) in your future workplace be if you displayed the type of costly humility that Jesus did (v6-8)?
What barriers, in your own mind, will stop you acting with such costly humility at work post-graduation?

3. Does the reward of honour that God promises to those who are humble in this life (Matthew 20:16; Psalm 18:27; James 1:9-10; see also Philippians 2:9-11), provide you with motivation to pursue and display an attitude of utter humility before your class mates now, and also at your clinical placement?

Are there any practical measures that you can take so you might see the value of this eternal reward with greater clarity and intensity?

Part of Jesus' motivation to live with an attitude of costly humility is his desire and commitment to obey God the Father (v8). Are you willing to pray that God will give you the same commitment that Jesus had – to live a life of costly obedience to Him before your colleagues?

Bible Bites

(Suitable to be completed over approximately 20-25 minutes by a group or an individual)

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Thinking about life as a student in healthcare

1. Identify 3 tasks as a health care student that you complete each week.
Identify 2 challenges that you attribute to the 'culture and dynamics' of your clinic, laboratory or study place that make it difficult for you to complete each of these tasks with humility.

What does God have to say?

Read Philippians 2:5-11 (TNIV),

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'

Jesus, being God, relinquished all to become a man. Becoming a man He willingly died in humiliation on a cross.

Putting it into practice

In Verse 5 Paul urges the Philippian Christians (and you and I) to adopt the same attitude that Jesus Christ approached life with; that of utter humility - a humility that has a preparedness to completely relinquish any entitlement one might have in order to benefit others (v 6-8).

1. Do you see this command as radical? Consider what impact you might have on the way your non Christian colleagues view Jesus if you use your authority over patients and staff in a manner that corresponds with the attitudes Paul is urging of us here?

Part of Jesus' motivation to live with an attitude of costly humility is his desire and commitment to obey God the Father (v8). Are you willing to pray that God will give you the same commitment that Jesus had – to live a life of costly obedience to Him before your colleagues?