

LIFE'S TOXIC GAME OF **FAME & SHAME**

WEEK THREE: **THE CELEBRITY TRAP**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We were not built for fame or shame, but to glorify God and to be satisfied in Him forever.

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to." ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Luke 4:5-8 (NIV)

Through fasting, scripture, and prayer, the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to resist Satan's tempting trap to pursue fame.

Fasting, prayer, and scripture remind me that I need the Holy Spirit to empower me to fulfill God's will.

The gospels don't just tell us what Jesus did and taught, they describe how Jesus lived so that we can follow Him.

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

John 4:34 (NIV)

Jesus shows us that knowing and obeying God's will is what feeds our deepest desires and longings.

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.

Luke 4:14-16 (NIV)

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. ³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

³⁵ "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. ³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" ³⁷ And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

Luke 4:31-37 (NIV)

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:12-16 (NIV)

- **Jesus lived to glorify God the Father and resisted living for the glory of man.**
- **While I may receive praise from people, I must not seek the praise of people.**

Jesus modeled true humility.

Humility is leveraging my authority and power to glorify God and fulfill His purpose for me by serving others.

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" ¹⁹ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

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²⁰ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah." ²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Luke 9:18-26 (NIV)

The enemy wants me to seek becoming a celebrity. Jesus wants me to have humility.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

It takes humility to deny myself, daily die to myself, and follow Jesus to glorify Him and experience true life.

- It takes the Holy Spirit's power to follow Jesus' example and walk in humility.
- It takes more power to deny myself than it does to promote myself.
- It takes humility to obey.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Culture baits us into the celebrity trap teasing us that true life is experienced when we are famous. The four Gospels do more than just tell us what Jesus did and what He taught, they show Jesus as our model for living life.

Jesus resisted the temptation to pursue making Himself famous. He trusted that God would exalt Him in time. Until that time, Jesus modeled what it looked like to deny oneself, die to oneself daily, and live a life of humility that is fully obedient to God's will.

We can't live like Jesus on our own power. We need the Holy Spirit's power. Jesus models how we can depend on the Holy Spirit's power to walk in humility and glorify Jesus.

Through fasting, prayer, and God's word, the Holy Spirit will empower us to have humility and deny ourselves, daily die to ourselves, and follow Jesus to glorify Him.

Prayer: Father, may Your Spirit empower me to humbly obey as I follow Jesus.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What is your experience with fasting, scripture, and prayer?

How have you submitted to God's will in difficult times and circumstances?

How has the example of Jesus helped lead you to a life of more and more true humility?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) John 12:23-27

Day 2) 1 Peter 2:11-12

Day 3) John 4:34-35

Day 4) Romans 12:2-4

Day 5) Philippians 2:5-11

Day 6) Ephesians 3:14-21