

**When Humility Gets in the Way**  
**Rev Terrance Jacob - Matt 3:13-17 - SALC, 1/11/26**

The words bold/boldness/boldly appears 56 times in the NT. Humble/humility/humbly appears 22 times. So the message to be bold is 250% louder than the message to be humble!

I point this out to understand that boldness is not a trait that is downplayed in the New Testament age, which we live in now. Yes, **humility is also a trait of a Christian, but boldness is actually more spoken about and expected.** Why? God knows that in a world that would not accept the Savior, the Messiah - with even His own not accepting Him - what is required for the Gospel to reach all the world, is boldness.

As Moses told Joshua when the Israelites were about to enter a new era of freedom from slavery (Deut 31:1-8), "Be bold!" Take courage in the fact that the Lord Your God is with you.

If Joshua said, "I'm just a youth. Why pick me? I'm just a good spy.", then perhaps they would still be slavery - at least until the European colonizers came, like they did all over the world. Well we thought Colonialism was over, but look at today... but that's a story for another day.

Thank God, Joshua listened to Moses, even as John listened to Jesus when John tried to shrink from the lofty calling of baptizing Jesus The Messiah! They both

prepared the way. What are we being called to today that we may be feeling tempted to shrink from?

Moses himself had shrunk from his own calling when God called him at the burning bush. He said, "but who am I? I cannot even speak properly?" God says, "Go! I made your mouth, I gave you speech!" What if he didn't go to Pharaoh? Well, it was all in God's hands, so in spite of us humans, God's Will will be done, right!

Jesus says something similar when He sent out His disciples into the new era of salvation and freedom in Matthew 28 "All power is given to me, go out in that power and make disciples of all people!"

What if the disciples said, "We are not really learned people, how can we go out and convince the world of this Gospel?" "Look how we deserted Jesus when they crucified our Lord." God is not looking for "perfect people", just willing ones.

You and I know Jesus today, because they were caused to resist the feeling that they were not good enough for the great task. Why? Because God had called them, sent them and empowered them, saying, "I will be with you always, even until the end of this age!" Then they were no more apologetic or half-hearted, but Bold!

When God appoints you to a task, we need to rise up and take it on. Often we ask, "Am I worthy of this task? Am I worthy of leading anyone out of bondage to sin and

struggle? Am I worthy of as lofty a task as sharing the Gospel? Or being a prophetic witness in a context of bigotry?" Sometimes we even say, "If I start talking Gospel and Jesus, I am going to sound arrogant and better than, and if I am questioned, I will not know how to answer!" God says to us, like He says to Paul and Jeremiah, the Old testament prophet, "Don't be afraid of what you have to say, I will give you the words." Just be bold!

Jesus came to John to be baptized. John tries to prevent him saying, "I need to be baptized by you. I am not worthy." But you see, that task of baptizing Jesus was given to, appointed to John. There was no time to try to act humble with, "I am not worthy!". Jesus had to, in His words, "fulfill all righteousness", the human Jesus had to be baptized, and John was appointed to do that.

With the urging of Jesus, John did rise to the occasion, and look what happened? God showed Himself to him. God in effect told John that he was walking in God's purpose and will. God promises to show us the same, when we stop letting so-called "humility" get in the way!

When we stand up for the Gospel, against lies, injustice and against sin, whether personal or systemic, let's be bold. When we tell people about Jesus and His saving Grace, let's be bold! Our baptismal promises, include "to proclaim the Gospel through words and deeds, serve all people, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth"

May we live that out boldly, and maybe God will say of you and me, "This is my beloved child in whom I am well pleased!" Be Bold! Amen.