



THE WAYS

BE THIRD. God is first; others are second; and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, but be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself; just think of yourself less and others more.

1. What is the difference between thinking less of yourself and thinking of yourself less?

READ Phil 2:1-11

1. How would you describe the mindset of Jesus? (v. 5)
2. What does it mean to "value others above yourselves?" (v. 3)
3. What connection does humility have to obedience?

Scenario: On your commute to work, it feels like you get cut off 100 times. You have started closing the distance between you and the car in front of you so that people can't shove in. I mean what gives them the right to cut in? We are all going to the same place. You find yourself becoming frustrated on your drives to and from work because other drivers are so inconsiderate and dangerous.

1. How often do you think about faith when driving?
2. How could it change the way you drive if you thought of *Being Third*?
3. How could thinking of others more change not only your actions but your emotions?
4. In this scenario and others, how do you balance self care and other focus?

Humility is not self-abnegation or denigration. You can be humble and take joy and pleasure in things for yourself. You can be humble and have high self-esteem. Humility is not putting yourself down. It is taking the time to lift others up first. When you choose to *Be Third*, you begin to properly ordering your life. God is of the utmost priority and serving and worshipping him always comes first. Others come second and often it is in caring for, thinking about, and serving others that we serve God. Finally, we choose to *Be Third* so we can raise up and honor God and others better.

PRAY TOGETHER. (Pray the Spirit would convict you of places your pride gets in the way of lifting up others.)

DAILY Devotional

MONDAY: *READ:* John 13:14-15. *THINK:* To show his care and concern for them, Jesus welcomed His disciples into the home not only offering them water to wash but by washing their feet himself. Jesus, being in very nature God, humbled himself to the point of washing the dusty and sweaty feet of his disciples. When you set out to *Be Third*, you will find that actions that seem beneath, you will become second nature. *PRAY:* that God would break your pride to love others.

TUESDAY: *READ:* 1 Peter 5:6-7. *THINK:* When I am first, the worries and weight of the world fall on my shoulders. Things I cannot do are not done, and the pressure builds. Cast your anxieties on God as the one who can and will overcome every obstacle. When you look to *Be Third*, you know that you are held in the mighty hands of God; and He will accomplish His good will. *PRAY:* through some of your anxieties and give them over to God.

WEDNESDAY: *READ:* 2 Chronicles 7:14. *THINK:* In our culture, when you speak in power and expectation, you are more likely to be served and answered. People use power to get their way. This just plainly doesn't work with God. He is not impressed by your clothes, job, money, or ability to speak. It is those who come to God in humility who are heard. *Be Third* in your prayer life and know how great is our God. *PRAY:* that you would see and know the face of God.

THURSDAY: *READ:* Luke 14:11. *THINK:* God will humble those who lift themselves up and exalt those who live humbly. Imagine a moment when God turns to you to exalt you. Whether in this life or after, the Creator of all will lift you up in honor and glory. What a gift it will be to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Don't seek your own glory, *Be Third* and let God exalt you. *PRAY:* that you would put more weight on God's exaltation than people's.

FRIDAY: *READ:* Proverbs 11:2. *THINK:* Pride shuts out the opinions and input of others, but humility welcomes and invites it. A prideful person thinks they have all the answers, but the humbly wise one knows how far they have still to come. When you begin to *Be Third*, you see the joy and the gift that others are in your life. Wisdom comes in seeking God first and honoring others above yourself. *PRAY:* that God would help organize your life in this way.

SATURDAY: *READ:* Rom. 12:3. *THINK:* This is the joy of the Gospel: you aren't good and you can't make yourself good. God can. The great freedom of faith is that we are not perfect and aren't expected to be. God invites us ever deeper into righteousness, but we are all in process. Do not think of yourself too highly; do not think you have made it; never think you can save yourself; and *Be Third*. *PRAY:* God would help you see yourself as He sees you.