



# The Monster in Me Second and Satisfied

#nptthemonsterinme

Week 4  
4 of 4

October 27, 2019

**Bottom Line:** When you are recognized, remember Whom it's from and Whom it's for.

**Icebreaker:** Let's play favorites: favorite TV show and character on it; favorite road trip snack; favorite article of clothing you wore over and over as a child or now.

**Key Verse:** *He must become greater; I must become less.* John 3:30

Pride is in you, and it's in me. You've been the victim of it somewhere and you've dispensed it as well. The problem with pride is that you can see it in other people but it's almost impossible to see in the mirror. When you're filled with pride, there's no room for anyone else, including God. We all live for applause from somebody. We want acceptance and approval. This is normal and natural, but it can get you in trouble because it's an appetite. When you feed appetites, they grow. An appetite is never fully satisfied.

You'll never be satisfied with the amount of attention or recognition you get. This will put you on a conquest to keep seeking it. Your appetite for being recognized has the power to undermine your authority and potential. That is the way pride works and controls us.

John the Baptist had all the same appetites and desires we have, and he was very recognized and applauded. When Jesus came on the scene, he immediately made the humility decision: *"He must become greater; I must become less"* (John 3:30). His life story and choices teach us that humility is a personal choice and is seeing yourself accurately. Humility is knowing your place according to God's design. Humility is understanding stewardship. John understood that the influence that had been given to him, like everything else, was only temporary. We own nothing; everything we have has been given to us as a gift to steward. Humility is being grateful. Humility is trusting God. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. It is believing that God is at work in my life for one purpose. It is not so I can fulfill the American dream and have a better lifestyle. It is to be one who points others to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me"* (Matthew 10:40). You see, Jesus wants to give you favor with people. He wants you to be recognized and welcomed because then others will want what you have. What you have is Jesus. He makes life better and makes you better at life.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness...are mere fleabites in comparison.... Pride leads to every other vice" (C. S. Lewis). Agree/Disagree. Discuss.

*Let's be real: You want to be recognized for something. You want to be recognized by someone. You want to be friended, followed, liked, and mentioned. You want to be recognized, admired, sought after, and envied (even if You don't admit it). This is why you buy the things you buy and do the things you do. We want people to envy us and not pity us. There's something in all of us that wants people to envy us. And there are times when we get our self-esteem off the people around us. When is this you? How do you deal with it?*

*Most of us didn't get our approval bucket filled by people close to us, especially our dads. So we look for approval from coaches, teachers, friends, even a spouse, boss, or children. How is this true/untrue of you?*

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

*Your appetite for being recognized has the power to undermine your authority and potential. This is the way pride works and controls us. Reflect and discuss.*

*Humility is seeing yourself accurately.* How does one get that accurate perception?

What would it mean for "Him to become greater and you to become lesser" practically? How would it impact your work? Your family? Your own contentment?

Where do you have influence and recognition that should be stewarded? How are you doing on it? How could you improve? Give an example of an area where you believe you are stewarding well.

John left no doubt that the hero was Jesus. He had no interest in being the hero. How can we leverage our personal influence making sure HE gets the credit?

## NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate yourself on the humility scale. Where do you need to become less and Jesus become more?
2. Where are you being recognized and applauded?
3. How can you leverage your recognition for the kingdom of God? How can you point to Jesus?

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** When you are recognized, remember Whom it's from and Whom it's for.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: 1 Timothy 6:17

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 17:23-28

Wednesday: Acts 13:1-4

Thursday: Acts 8:25-26

Friday: Proverbs 6:16-19

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*