



Part One: Help, I'm A Control Freak // Jeff Brodie // August 9, 2020

How do the people around you experience your need for control? Control is really about having power, and how we use that power is important. Who do you have power over? How do you use that power to make a difference in the lives of those around you? Control doesn't inspire people the way influence does. Control makes temporary progress, but it rarely makes a lasting difference.

Scripture: [John 13:1-14 NLT](#); [John 19:10-11 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Your power is made perfect in humility.

Getting Started:

1. Would you describe yourself as a "control freak"? Why or why not? What are the areas of your life where you like to be in control?
2. How do the people around you experience you when you are controlling? What is their experience with you when you feel powerless?
3. Have you experienced someone who is controlling in your life? Have you experienced someone who influenced your life? What was the difference?

Jumping In:

4. C.S. Lewis says, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." What do you think of this definition of humility? Do you find this easy or difficult to practice? How so?
5. Jeff shared that control is power rooted in fear or pride, while influence is about power rooted in humility. Control is temporary, but influence is lasting and inspires. Where have you seen this in your own life?

Discuss:

6. Read John 13:1-3. John takes the time to remind us that Jesus was all-powerful in this moment. He is fully God. Why do you think John includes this?
7. Read v. 4-14. What do you suppose Jesus was thinking during this experience? What about the disciples? What do you imagine Judas was thinking?

8. In this moment, Jesus is all-powerful and yet full of humility at the same time. Why do you think we find this tension challenging? Have you experienced Jesus' gift of all-powerful humility in your own life?
9. Read John 19:10-11. Here we see Jesus severely beaten and then interacting with Pilate. What does this account tell you about how power works in our lives?
10. Jeff shared that the power God has given you is made perfect in humility. Who do you have power over? What does power rooted in humility look like in that relationship?

Moving Forward:

Next week Jeff will be talking about how to respond when you are powerless. Take some time to reflect this week on how you respond to powerlessness and a loss of control. Consider your emotions, actions, thoughts, and decisions. Who do you know that feels powerless around you? Be sure to take a few minutes this week to invite them to join you for the series next Sunday.