

The Spotlight on Jesus

My daughter is a professional actor, performing on stages all around the country. Her most popular role is when she is cast as country singer Patsy Cline. When she walks out on stage, the spotlight shines on her. In real life, Kara endeavors to be humble, pointing others to Jesus Christ. Kara never developed a diva mentality, but for some people, being the star could do just that.

It is human nature to want to be viewed as the star. One of the characteristics of a person who compares themselves to others is they want to be looked at as better than other people. Jesus told this parable about the attitude of the Pharisees, who wanted to appear to be righteous in the eyes of others. *The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* (Luke 18:11-14).



God wants His light to reflect **through** us and not **on** us. He wants us to **point to Jesus**. Why is that? It is because our goal is to encourage others to seek Jesus and His saving Grace. *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven* (Matthew 5:16). We must glorify God and not ourselves.

The Christian church at Corinth was having a problem. Its members were fighting among themselves to prove who was the greatest. What matters is God's and not someone else's opinion. *For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends* (2 Corinthians 10:18). It has been said, "**Comparison breeds discontent.**" You become dissatisfied with yourself as you step on others to reach the top, and even then, you crave more attention. You can never be satisfied.

When we compare ourselves with others, we are saying we aren't satisfied with our position in life. God made us and He equipped and laid out a path for us to succeed. We don't accomplish His purposes unless we follow Him. Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me." Be satisfied with how you were made, and follow Him.

There were many people on stage as my daughter played the role of Patsy Cline. The casting director chose each actor because of their unique skills, and they blended together, each adding a dimension to the storyline. At the show's end, each cast member took their bows, receiving the audience's appreciation for their contributions. We all have a role to play in life. God has cast us specifically for a particular role. Each person's efforts complement what others are doing to increase the Kingdom of God. Be satisfied with the part that God has asked you to do. And, as you play your role, let the spotlight be on God and not you. He will make you successful with what He asks you to do.

The name of Jesus is above any other name, yet He is humble. Jesus points the spotlight towards His Heavenly Father. We can, too.

Here's the Point: God made you for His purposes. As you go through life, be content with the role He designed you to play. Be satisfied with that role, and blend it with others to accomplish great things in His name. God will thank you.

Prayer: Heavenly Father. You created us to do great things, but to do them in your name. Let us give you all the glory. Amen.