

Proverbs on Pride

PREACH IT, TEACH IT DEVOTIONAL PART THREE

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Proverbs 6:16-18
Psalm 101:5b
Psalm 18:27
Proverbs 21:4
Proverbs 16:5
Matthew 22:37, 39-40
Isaiah 14:13-14
Proverbs 11:2
Proverbs 16:18
2 Chronicles 32:24-26

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
Help me to learn how to express
my needs in a healthy way, and to
discover how to humble myself
before You, trusting everything to
Your care.
Amen



THE DECEPTION OF PRIDE

**“There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.”**

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

Pride is the basis of “the way that seems right to man.” King Solomon observed that pride seems like a logical path. Without the revelation of God and obedience to His direction, we can walk in rebellion with life-altering consequences. The person who walks in pride is called “foolish.” The wise king warns of arrogance, self-aggrandizement, and naïve self-reliance.

“The way of a fool seems right to him” Proverbs 12:15 (NIV)

“A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.” Proverbs 14:16 (NIV)

“All the man’s ways seem right to him” Proverbs 21:2 (NIV)

“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” Proverbs 26:12 (NIV)

“He who trusts in himself is a fool” Proverbs 28:26a (NIV)

Is it wrong to trust yourself? Self-reliance does not mean we can’t be self-confident. Why does Solomon call the man a “fool” who trusts in his own judgment apart from God? God tells us in Isaiah 55:8 that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts. The difference in the fool and the wise man is the wise man seeks God’s directions for his life. He is patient, and he is humble. He never presumes to know the answers without consulting God and His Word.

- Have you ever “run ahead” of God by making foolish choices without consulting Him in prayer, by seeking godly counsel, and by carefully studying God’s Word? What were the results?
- Think about a time in your life when you clearly sensed the Holy Spirit leading you to do something. When was it? What blessings resulted from your obedience? Did you experience peace in making that choice?
- List some decisions you currently face that require God’s wisdom and leadership. What are they? Spend time meditating on God and seeking God’s direction.

PRIDE SAYS, “*I CAN DO IT*”

Self-confidence and competence are not evidences of pride in our lives. As believers, we are children adopted into God’s family. He gives to His children complete forgiveness, and unique spiritual gifts to accomplish His purposes. Pride is perverted self-confidence: stealing God’s glory and operating apart from His grace and empowerment. Paul warns Galatian Christians of God’s judgment because they began “in the spirit” and then resorted to operating “in the flesh.” (Galatians 3:3)

Self-reliant people are frequently presumptuous. Instead of waiting for God’s timing, they act without Him because of , ignorance or arrogance. God may have given us His approval for a project, but instructed us to wait. After a delay far beyond a reasonable time in our estimation, we proceed with the project because it’s obvious to us that He’s just forgotten about us or we must have missed His signal to proceed. Such presupposition is predicated upon the assumption that God is distant, uncaring, or uninterested in leading our lives. Saul is a good example of taking matters into his own hands, impatiently disregarding God’s specific instructions. God’s prophet Samuel told Saul to go to Gilgal and to wait seven days. When Samuel arrived, he would sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. (1 Samuel 8:10) However, upon Saul’s arrival, the great Philistine army was approaching with thousands of chariots, 6,000 horsemen and a host of foot soldiers. Saul was terrified as he watched many in his army desert him. Those who remained had only sickles, axes and farm tools with which to fight the formidable foes. Saul expected God to fulfill His promise on his timetable. Because he feared man, he disobeyed Samuel’s orders and offered the sacrifice himself. God was so angered with Saul for blaspheming God by assuming the duties of a priest, He took away his crown. Samuel chided King Saul with a severe warning in 1 Samuel 15:23:

“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.” KJV

Reckless decisions made apart from God are not only foolish-they can be disastrous! Blatant disregard for God’s commands is compared to witchcraft-it places us under satanic attack. Stubborn refusal to God’s directions is likened to worshipping idols and moral depravity. Serious words for a single sin! Saul not only lost his throne to David, but he was tormented the rest of his life.

- Is it difficult for you to wait on God’s timing? Why or why not? What circumstances seem the most challenging to wait for God’s direction?

- How do you view God? Do you see Him as distant, demanding or disappointed? When waiting on God, we must truly believe that He has our best interests at heart. Spend some time reading Psalm 139. What does God say about His love for you and His willingness to bless your life?

HUMILITY AND HAUGHTINESS

“...he who has a **haughty look and a proud and arrogant heart**
I cannot and I will not tolerate.” Psalm 101:5b (AMP)

God hates pride. Why? Because God created man to give Him glory. God longs for an intimate relationship with His children. When a man chooses to steal God’s glory for himself, he breaks God’s heart. He also turns away from a sincere dependence upon his Creator. The Hebrew word for haughty means to lift up or mount up. God asks us to prostrate ourselves before Him in worship.

However, there can be only one **I** and that one is God. In Exodus 3:14 God says: “**I AM WHO I AM.**”

A picture of “haughtiness” or “loftiness” is painted in Isaiah 14, the classic Old Testament passage description of Satan in Isaiah 14:12-13::

“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God.” NIV

Such self-exaltation causes us to reflect the character of Satan instead of the humble character of Jesus. In Philip-
pians 2:6-11, we are told that, though He was in the form of God, He humbled himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a cross. Pride is the very essence of Satan’s character. Humility and gentleness is the very essence of Christ’s character.

- Go to a quiet place and sit silently before God. Think about your day. Who was in control of your life today? As you begin your day tomorrow, think of the tasks and opportunities before you. Take each one before God and ask Him for leadership and guidance.
- Spend some time with the passage in Philippians 2. Meditate on the beautiful condescension of Jesus, and worship Him for His humility and sacrifice on our behalf.