

ME, MY #SELFIE AND I
Addicted to “Likes”
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Discussion Notes
The Crossing Church
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OPENING

Today we are completing a three week series about pride. Pride is an issue that we can see in other people, but rarely can we see it in ourselves. When it comes to control, influence, and approval, our lives can easily become self-centered and empty. We are learning in our series, using the book of Daniel as a backdrop, how centering our lives around God puts Him in control and allows Him to use our influence for good. God’s word has incredible wisdom on how to lead with humility.

SCRIPTURE¹

Daniel 6:1-6 “It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally, these men said, ‘We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.’ So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: ‘O King Darius, live forever!’ “

Daniel 6:10 “Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”

Daniel 6:16 “So the king gave the order and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, ‘May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!’ “

Daniel 6:19-24 “At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?’ Daniel answered, ‘O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.’ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. At the king’s command the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.”

Daniel 6:28 “So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Galatians 1:10 “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

1 John 3:1a “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! “

Ephesians 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

Romans 8:1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:37 “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

¹ All scripture listed is NIV unless otherwise indicated

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Colossians 2:10 (NLT) “So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.”

Romans 8:11a “...the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.”

Romans 8:17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:20a “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

Question: Under what circumstances have your trust in God and then His plans for your life been challenged? What choice did you make?

OBSERVATION

Daniel was an 80 year old man who had trusted God throughout his exile in Babylon. When his jealous enemies conspired to defeat him, Daniel remained faithful to God, risked everything, and would not compromise his principles and integrity. Daniel had three options: stop praying; fake it; or keep praying publicly and risk death. He made the right choice. Daniel refused to go along with an edict that violated his godly practices and stood strong even though it would have been easier and more popular to capitulate.

APPLICATION

We need to be aware that whenever God raises us up, people will find a way to tear us down and we can expect resistance from the Prince of Darkness. Also, when we begin to make decisions based on the approval of men, it is not going to turn out well.

Question: Tell us about a time when Satan attacked you in order to steal your blessing. How did you feel and what did you do?

The four signs that you might be an approval junkie are:

- You worry too much about what other people think;
- You are overly sensitive;
- You start to compromise your values;
- You have a hard time saying “no”;

Question: If you see yourself described in any or all of these four categories, what do you plan to do?

Question: If you recognize that pride can be an addiction, what can you do to overcome its grip on your life and begin again with God?

So, how do we live from the approval of God, instead of for the approval of others?

- Be genuinely who you are: don’t worry about what others think of you - it matters what God says about you;
- Accept the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ and start walking free and forgiven;
- Lay down whatever pride you have and embrace the life that Jesus died to give you;

Question: If you have decided to seek the approval of God, tell us specifically, when will you start and what do you plan to do?

Question: What would you like to say to Pastor Shane about the impact this series on pride has made on your life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to empty our hearts of self. This three week journey has had an extreme impact on us and given us an awareness of how You perceive our prideful behavior. We, above all else, ache for a greater intimacy with You and that can only happen if you are the Lord of our lives. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.