



February 15, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Overcoming Pride Judges 9

Recognize the false value system of a proud life Judges 9:1-6

- I have value because of my position in life: What I achieve; What family I am from (v.1-3)
"Which is better for you, that seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, (Gideon) rule over you, or that one man rule over you? Also, remember that I am your bone and your flesh." (v. 2)
- I have value because of the possessions/people in my life: What I own (v.4)
"They gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-berith with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless fellows, and they followed him." (v. 4)
- I have value because of the power in my life: What and who I control (v.5-6)
"Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone." (v. 5)

Pride is revealed by an unteachable spirit that rejects God's truth Judges 9:7-15

"Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and called out. Thus he said to them, "Listen to me, O men of Shechem, that God may listen to you." (v. 7)

Pride is deceptive since you may experience temporary success Judges 9:22

"Now Abimelech ruled over Israel three years"

Psalm 83:1-9

Beware of the divine and natural consequences of pride Judges 9:23-49

- God will confront pride in His time (v.23-24)
"Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem"
- My pride drives me to control what I achieved, even if it creates conflict and pain.
 - Conflict to maintain my possessions (v.25)
 - Conflict to maintain my power and position (v.26-49)
 - Proud people attempt to maintain control through anger, revenge, betrayal, deceit, jealousy and murder
Matthew 5:21

Be warned, God will judge the proud person Judges 9:50-57

- Judgment delayed is not judgment denied
- God is keeping an account
- Judgment to crush our pride will be certain, swift and surprising (v.53-54)
"Then he called quickly to the young man, his armor bearer, and said to him, 'Draw your sword and kill me, so that it will not be said of me, 'A woman slew him.' So the young man pierced him through, and he died"
II Samuel 11:21

Digging Deeper & LifeGroup Discussion:

Ask and answer the following questions to move from pride toward humility. Consider asking a trusted friend how they would answer these questions for you.

1. Will you surrender yourself in humility under God's power and trust Him to care for your life? You will discover new freedom and peace.
"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7
2. Learn and live the traits of humility in Jesus from Philippians 2.
 - Do you regard others as more important than yourself?
"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves" Philippians 2:3
 - Do you struggle in your heart and relationships to maintain control of your power, possessions and position in life? Are you willing to give up your rights in these areas and surrender them all to Jesus?
"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:5-7
 - Are you teachable, open to correction, willing to obey God in how He directs your life? Will you listen to the godly counsel of another person to guide and encourage you into greater humility?
"Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:8
3. Are you or others suffering painful conflict because of your own pride? Often such conflicts in your own heart and relationships come from pride where you must be in control, have your way, or demand your rights. Such conflict is reflected in attitudes and actions of anger, resentment, deceit or hate (emotional murder Matthew 5:21). To overcome these areas will you trust in the power of Christ to help you turn from them in the following ways?
 - Will you turn from deceit and lies to living in integrity and truth?
"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ...and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another." Ephesians 4:15, 24-25
 - Will you turn from anger to love and acceptance of others?
"BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:26-27, 29
 - Will you turn from revenge/resentment to forgiveness of others?
"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32
4. Will you admit that God has the final say in judging all pride? You may pay the price for your pride like Abimelech. Judges 9:56. OR... Will you let Jesus Christ pay the price of that judgment for you to find peace with God? If yes, confess your sin to Him and trust in His sacrifice on the cross for you as payment in full for your forgiveness.
"For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." Romans 5:7-9

Next Steps:

1. **Come receive prayer at a Prayer Point in the front sides of the Worship Center.** Pastors and Prayer Counselors will be available to pray with you or to answer more questions you may have about Jesus.
2. **Connect in a LifeGroup for support and encouragement to grow in your faith with others.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary's campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
3. **Connect with a Discipleship Mentor who can encourage you one-on-one as you grow in your faith.** A Discipleship Mentor can walk with you through the "Following Jesus" course, which journeys through the foundational elements of following Jesus. Come to the Mentor Meetup next Sunday, February 22 from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Lobby to connect with a mentor over a casual evening of dessert. For info, contact Laura Copeland at LCopeland@calvarylife.org or calvarylife.org/discipleship

