

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Pride Comes Before the Fall

Psalms 51:16-17; Proverbs 3:34, 11:2, 16:18; James 4:6,10; Luke 14:11, 1 Peter 5:5-7, 2 Chronicles 26:3-16

Definition: The warnings of destruction that come from a proud and arrogant attitude are numerous. My greatest failures have come when I said to God, "I got this -- I don't need your help. I am self-sufficient in this area." I didn't actually say this to God, but it was my attitude and my action – not praying, not asking, not seeking guidance from the Spirit.

Segment Questions:

- What was your favorite sport or activity as a child? How good were you at it compared to your peers?
- What is it about pride and arrogance that is so contrary to God?
- Which verse speaks most to you and why?
- Who was Uzziah's spiritual mentor or accountability partner? What is the benefit this person serves?
- What do you think happened after Zechariah died?
- What was Uzziah's role in his success and what was God's role in Uzziah's success?
- Why, or how, do you think pride destroyed Uzziah?

Action Questions:

- Do you have someone like Zechariah that helps you honor and walk with God? Does the person (or people) have complete access to your activities, thoughts, and spending so that the person can ask you hard questions?
- If you don't have someone, is there a brother in Christ that you could ask? If you do have someone, is there any area you need to give more access into your life?
- What area of your life are you most prideful or arrogant? What is the root of this pride?
- In what ways have you experienced the destructive forces of pride?

Here are some scriptures that are guides and warnings for us:

Psalms 51:16-17 – Certainly you do not want a sacrifice, or else I would offer it; you do not desire a burnt sacrifice. The sacrifices God desires are a humble spirit -O God, a humble and repentant heart you will not reject.

Proverbs 3:34 and James 4:6 – God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 11:2 – When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Luke 14:11 – For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

James 4:10 – Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

1 Peter 5:5-7 – And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. And God will exalt you in due time, if you humble yourselves under his mighty hand by casting all your cares on him because he cares for you.

The story of Uzziah from 2 Chronicles 26:3-16

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem. He did what the Lord approved, just as his father had done. He followed God during the lifetime of Zechariah, who taught him how to honor God. As long as he followed the Lord, God caused him to succeed.

Uzziah attacked the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities in the region of Ashdod and throughout Philistine territory. God helped him in his campaigns against the Philistines. The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah and his fame reached the border of Egypt, for he grew in power.

Uzziah built and fortified towers in Jerusalem. He built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns, for he owned many herds in the lowlands and on the plain.

Uzziah had an army of skilled warriors trained for battle. The total number of family leaders who led warriors was 2,600. They commanded an army of 307,500 skilled and able warriors who were ready to defend the king against his enemies.

Uzziah supplied shields, spears, helmets, breastplates, bows, and slingstones for the entire army. In Jerusalem he made war machines carefully designed to shoot arrows and large stones from the towers and corners of the walls. He became very famous, for he received tremendous support and became powerful.

But once he became powerful, his pride destroyed him. He disobeyed the Lord his God.