

How God Deals with Pride – June 30 & July 1, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Job 38

- From where does God speak to Job (1)? How does he begin his address (2-3)? What do you think about this timing? Job has endured much suffering, and now God confronts his pride. How and when does God typically address your pride?
- Summarize the Lord's omniscience regarding creation (4-41). How do you think Job felt to hear all this? Which section speaks most to your heart? Why? Which parts bring peace or sober-minded thinking? If you could sum up all of these pronouncements in one word or phrase, what would it be?
- The Lord desires that we be humble, not prideful. Spend some more time reflecting on the truth that you are a creature in God's world. Ask the Holy Spirit to reorient your heart toward this truth. What changes is he inspiring you to make?

Day Two: Luke 18:9-14

- Describe the audience of this parable (9). Don't rush past this first sentence; in at least one regard, you are part of this audience. Ask God to show you the ways you look down on others.
- Set the scene of the parable (10). Describe each man (10). Describe the Pharisee's prayer posture (11). What words did he pray (11-12)? In both body language and speech, the Pharisee is breeding division; he's a poster child for pride. What is your response to his prayer? How do you think God feels about it?
- Describe the tax collector's prayer posture and actions (13). What about his words (13)? Only one of these men were delivered; whom (14)? What is the method of deliverance (14)? What is the takeaway of this parable (14)? Today, in prayer, thought, word and deed, how can you humble yourself?

Day Three: 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

- Why does Paul "try to persuade others" (5:11)? How does he want the Corinthians to think of him (11-12)? Some assert Paul is "out of his mind;" what is his response (13)? What does Christ's love compel him to do (14-15)? What does Jesus' love compel *you* to do? Pray your motivation would remain rooted in humility.
- What spiritual viewpoint can we now embrace (16-17)? To what extent do you view things this way, both regarding yourself and others? If you struggle to experience God's new deliverance and reconciliation found in Christ, spend several minutes meditating on verses 18-19, praying Jesus would open your eyes.
- What does it mean to be "Christ's ambassadors" (20-21)? How does both reconciliation and righteousness seem evident in your life? How should we *not* receive God's grace (6:1)? Trade your pride for God's favor and salvation. Pray you'd always respond to the ever-present deliverance Jesus faithfully offers us.

Day Four: Hebrews 11:13-16

- After praising specific Old Testament characters for their faith, the author then writes about them as a whole. What was their faith like when each of them died (13)? What does it mean to "live by faith" (13)? Is a prideful person able to see promises from a distance? Does he see himself as a foreigner? How can you be a person of faith instead of a person of pride? Ask God to do this work.

- What do the faithful seek (14, 16)? What do they forsake (15)? How does God respond to these faithful thoughts and deeds (16)? In what ways do you seek God's deliverance? How do your thoughts, words and actions communicate this? What do you think causes you at times to revert to a life of pride? Repent, asking God to give you a steadfast longing for deliverance. For more inspiration, read all of Hebrews 11.

Day Five: Revelation 22:12-17

- In these final words of the New Testament, what does Jesus say to us (12)? Three times in this chapter he says, "I am coming soon." What does that message mean for you today? What will Jesus give to each person (12)?
- What does Jesus say about himself (13, 16)? In light of who he is, human pride is foolishness. Ask the Holy Spirit to testify to your heart about Jesus' ever-present, all-knowing, author-and-perfecter nature. Also pray for strength to flee from pride.
- Who is blessed (14)? What do they have the right to do (14)? What will God's judgment look like (15)? How does this make you feel? Even if you are confused or concerned (a common response to reading *Revelation!*), heed the words in verse 17. Picture yourself delivered into God's kingdom, drinking the water of life, etc. Read Obadiah 11-15; it's another glimpse. God *will* deliver us from pride and all other darkness! Respond to the Lord.