

How Far Are You Willing to Go?

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility. (Proverbs 18:12)

I. Self-confidence Is Dangerous

- A. Self-confidence sets people up for problems which do not afflict those who take a low profile in life. When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. (Proverbs 11:2)
- B. Pride converts a person into a target for problems, removing the natural protections against damaging behavior. Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)
- C. Pride compounds the penalties of failure. A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. (Proverbs 29:23)
- D. Pride didn't do much good for Herod. And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. (Acts 12:21-23)

II. The Tables Turn in Life

- A. Remember the story of Job and his friends. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job. So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job. (Job 42:6-9)
- B. The Lord reversed the course of Providence. And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. (Job 42:10-15)
- C. In the end, everything worked out to illustrate God's sovereignty and the wisdom of humility before God. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days. (Job 42:16-17)

III. God Promised Good to Those Who Prefer His Insight to Their Own

- A. Those who give up managing their own affairs and entrust themselves to God will find God taking charge. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- B. God won't leave us in the dark. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (1 John 5:14-15)
- C. Your career will advance more satisfactorily under God's direction than under your own. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- D. When you have the best inside information do not settle for less. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. (Psalm 37:23-24)