

No Room . . . For Pride – Luke 14:7-11

Last week – No room for hypocrisy; This week – no room for pride from Lk 14

Lk 14:7-11 – AD 30; January; Perea (East side of Jordan)

Pithy saying for dinner party etiquette?

A subtle way to get the best seat in the house?

A spin off of Emily Post wisdom?

Suppose you could say so, but you'd be wrong; Miss the point

Parable intended to warn us about the consequences of pride . . .

And encourage us re the blessings of humility

Jesus is trying to get the point across, and this is not the first time in his ministry to do so

That there's no room for pride when it comes to following him

No room for feelings of superiority

No room for a haughty attitude

Because . . .

Pride comes before a fall (v8-9)

That's the idea of v8-9 – the man's fall at the wedding feast was preceded by his pride

No matter what the situation in your life, if pride is present, a fall is sure to follow . . .

• **It's a matter of time (Prov 16:18)**

Pride always leads to a fall

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

It may exalt you for a time, but eventually it will backfire

It may offset whatever you're trying to hide in the short run

Or gain you the notoriety or recognition you're looking for

But eventually, it will catch up with you

Jesus makes that very clear in v11 – that at some point you will be humbled

It's a matter of time

God hates pride

Prov 8:13 – *Pride and arrogance I hate*

In Prov 6:17 – *haughty eyes* (pride) is the first on a list of 7 things that are an

abomination to the Lord (an outrage)

Worse yet, God *opposes* prideful people

Both Peter and James said – *God opposes the proud* (1 Pet 5:5; James 4:6)

Because he's perfect in his justice and holiness just like he's perfect in his love . . .

He cannot and will not overlook the sin of pride

That's why the fall of pride is only a matter of time

• **It leads to destruction (Prov 18:12)**

Prov 18:12 – *Before destruction a man's heart is haughty* [proud]

It doesn't always lead to destruction – thank God for that

But it can and often does

Many examples of this for our instruction and warning in the OT

Like the death of so many Israelites in the Sinai desert when they were proud (thinking they deserved better) – and God sent fiery serpents to bite them

Pride leads to destruction

Or what about the business man who's too proud to admit failure or ask for help, and loses everything because of it?

Or spouse who's too proud to admit they're wrong, and loses their marriage?

Pride comes before a fall and often leads to destruction

But whether it does or doesn't, one thing's for sure . . .

• **Punishment is certain (Prov 16:5)**

Prov 16:5 – *Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.*

It could be this side of eternity; It could be the other side; It could be both

Whatever the case – punishment is certain

Better believe God can and will do it

King Neb found that out the hard way in book of Daniel

He was the one who ruled the vast Babylonian empire ~600 BC

After failing to acknowledge God (even after so many miracles)

Losing his throne; Being forced to live like an animal for 7 years

He finally confessed in Dan 4:37 – *Those who walk in pride he[God] is able to humble*

You better believe it – punishment for pride is certain

Does that mean we should live in fear of punishment? No!

Not if you know Jesus; Not if he's Lord of your life

Not if you've repented of your sins, including pride

If you've done that, his death *was* the certain punishment for your pride

You don't have to live in fear

That's one of the beautiful things about a relationship with Christ

But to extent that God wants to discipline/refine you for your pride – face consequences

And to the extent you have *un-confessed* pride in your life – you face punishment

Punishment forever for those who don't believe

Punishment now for those who do

Either way, punishment is certain

And when it comes . . .

• **Shame is sure to follow (Prov 11:2)**

Prov 11:2 – *When pride comes, then comes disgrace* [shame]

The shame of public *disgrace*

Like when the man takes a lower seat

The shame of private *regret*

9b – *then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place*

You don't *want* to have any room for pride in your life

If you're thinking – “I'm so glad so and so is hearing this,” or . . .

“I'm going to get a CD for spouse, friend, co-worker – they really need to hear this”

Hold that thought for a minute – want you to consider this list of the **Fruits of Pride**

Not meant to shame you, or make you feel like a worm

It's intended to help you recognize the pride in your life . . .

So the HS can convict you and help you change – before you endure the shame of a fall

List (on screen) . . .

Insert in your bulletin with this same list– self-evaluation on pride

Take some time this week and work through it

I did as I was preparing – stopped about halfway through . . .

“Lord, I’m so guilty; I’m so sorry; Please forgive me; I want to do better”

If God brings you to that point, you do the same

If you feel shame, don’t stay there

“If pride is what goes before a fall, then shame is what keeps you from getting up after one.” (Max Lucado, *He Chose the Nails*)

Pride *drives* us away from God, and shame *keeps* us away from him

Don’t wallow in your shame – rest in God’s forgiveness; trust in his strength

Not only is there no room for pride because pride comes before a fall, but . . .

The way up is down (v10-11)

The way to honor is humility

Read v10-11 – Jesus uses an earthly example to illustrate an eternal principle

That just as the honor of man comes by being humble before others

So does the honor of God come by being humble before him

Either way . . .

• **Humility comes before honor (Prov 18:12)**

Prov 18:12 – *Humility comes before honor* (same in Prov 15:33)

Humility is required for honor – it’s the down part of the way up

The low way of humility leads to the highway of honor

In school have to take certain classes before you take others

Pre-algebra, algebra; Chemistry, organic chemistry – prerequisites

That’s how humility is w.r.t. honor – it’s a prerequisite – no humility, no honor

Saw an interview with LeBron James – rising star basketball player

Blatant about wanting to be world-renowned

Famous in everyone’s eyes because of his prowess on and off the court

Not a shred of humility; The last thing he got from me was *honor*

This truth was lost on him – he who *humbl*es himself will be exalted

He was operating on the premise that he who *exalts* himself will be exalted

As counter-intuitive as is – honor is not preceded by pride, it’s preceded by humility

To the extent that you *want* to be honored by man, and act all humble to get it, you defeat your purpose – that’s false humility, and . . .

• **False humility won’t cut it (Lk 11:43-44)**

Read Lk 11:43-44

Pride fuels a desire to be noticed in church – false humility tries to mask it

Pride fuels a desire to be admired in public – false humility tries to mask it

The trick is to advance w/out appearing to try

To condemn pride in others while quietly pursuing your own gain

Jesus hated the pride that pretended to be humble

Makes the point that false humility leads to disrespect

People will pay no more attention to you than they do an unmarked grave that is walked on

False humility may gain you honor with man for a time – but God knows

Eventually it will be laid bare before him

The way up is down, but false humility won’t cut it

• **True humility is not what it seems**

The example of Scripture shows us that true humility is not . . .

Putting yourself down; Laziness or a lack of gumption

A passive manner; The pursuit of mediocrity

Withdrawal or receding into the background

Keeping your giftedness under wraps

It’s making your gifts known and available, without one care whether they are used or not

It’s pursuing excellence in all you do, while caring less about getting the credit

It’s considering others better than yourself, even when you think otherwise

In fact, it’s not even thinking otherwise

When that’s true . . .

• **God’s blessing awaits**

That’s what exalted means – to be blessed, praised, held in honor

Who doesn’t yearn for that from God?

Prov 11:2 – *with humility comes wisdom*

➤ Part of the blessing that awaits your humility is wisdom

➤ Part of it is grace

1 Pet 5:5 – *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*

The blessing of God’s grace/favor awaits your humility

But the timing is up to him

1 Pet 5:6 – *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you*

The proper time of God’s blessing is up to him

It’s up to you to humble yourself

➤ God’s blessing of wisdom awaits your humility; Blessing of grace; Blessing of life . . .

This is the ultimate expression of God’s blessing

Is 57:15 – *I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit [repentant and humble heart], to revive [give life to] the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

God’s blessing of life – full and forever – awaits those who are humble

Read v11

The way to honor is humility

The way to shame is pride

It’s your choice, but in God’s plan, there’s no room for pride

Choose humility, whatever it takes safe