

Esther Series – Pride and Humility Esther 5:1-14

Dave Shepardson, Calvary Chapel Nuevo / wordbymail.com

Pride and Humility. Pick one. Not the one you want. Pick the honest one the best represents you. Today, we're going to see this incredible contrast between pride and humility. I wanted to say humility and pride because we're going to see the humility first, but pride and humility went better.

We're going to contrast the road we naturally take. You know that, right? We naturally take the road called pride. The opposite of our nature (pride) is the road that God is transforming us on. That's called humility. Today we're going to see this incredible contrast between pride and humility. What I really want you to get in your mind (so I'm going to say it more than a few times) is that for the next couple of chapters we're going to see the absolute failure of Haman's pride versus the incredible success, if you will, of Esther's humility.

There's this beautiful contrast between these extremes – one who we are by nature and one who God wants to transform us into. We're going to see Proverbs 29:23 come to life for the next couple of chapters in Esther. It says from the NCV "***Pride will ruin people.***" I hope that's not news to you. "***Pride will ruin people, but those who are humble will be honored.***" That is a summary of this section of Esther that we're in.

We're going to see the ruin of our enemy number one, Haman, from his pride. We're going to see the success, the honoring if you will, of our hero number one, Esther. In the contrast, I pray that you'll see that this is a very practical illustration of our lives. Here's what I need you to do right now: we're going to look today at how Esther and Haman both (but primarily Esther) approach a very, very critical situation. It's illustrative. It teaches by pictures, so I need you to get this picture in your mind.

If you would just set your mind on a difficult situation in your life that you need to approach. Go ahead, I'll wait... Do you have it? I want you to hold on in your mind to that difficult situation in your life, which by the way probably involves another person. I want you to hold that in your mind. I pray that if you will, in fact, I promise you if you will, the Holy Spirit will speak to you specifically about that exact situation in your life as we see it unfold today in Esther Chapter 5. God is going to reveal to us both the right way and the wrong way to approach difficult situations in our lives.

If you've got a difficult situation in your life that you need to approach, I promise you, if you'll ask God, he'll reveal to you by his Spirit specifically. He'll lead and guide you for his names sake in how to approach that situation.

Let's pray. Father God, please. Lord, bring up in our minds by your Spirit Lord that situation that you desire to deal within our lives personally, God. Right now, Lord, we just ask that you would reveal that to us, Lord. You desire to speak specifically to us today about our real lives Lord. God, we pray that you would bring that circumstance, that situation, that purpose up. And Lord that as we look at Esther's and Haman's approaches to this difficult situation, Lord, we pray that you would pierce us with where we're at. That we would be open and honest, Lord.

Lord, your word says that all things are open and naked before the eyes of whom we must give account. Lord, we just lay ourselves open to you. We know, Lord, you know where we're at between these extremes of pride and humility. We pray you reveal it to us today and that you would begin to transform us, Lord. Put us on your road to humility and by your power, crucify our pride. We pray today Lord in Jesus' name, amen.

We've got to do a little review. In chapter 3 we met our super villain. Say, "Boooo!" That's Haman. He's our super villain and we saw him devise this plan to annihilate all the Jews – probably ten million plus in the Persian kingdom which, of course, includes all of Canaan. He gets this plan together and he actually institutes this plan to annihilate every Jew.

In chapter 4, Mordecai comes to the palace to make sure that Esther knows that this has come from the palace through Haman. The last time we studied Esther in chapter 4 we saw a couple things. Number one, we saw Esther do a little soul-searching. She was struggling with the whole concept that God was calling her and that he had put her in this time and this place for this purpose.

She struggled with that, but after what we would call some very appointed encouragement by Mordecai, her cousin, where he said, "Don't mess around. Don't think for a second you'll escape if you bail out on God right now," Esther chooses to join God where he's working in order for God to save the Jewish people.

At the end of chapter 4, she asked all the Jews in Susa (the capital city of the Persian kingdom) to fast for three days for her. She says that she and her maidens will fast also – all of this preparation for her to approach this incredibly difficult situation in her life.

For three days, she's got this power-house support team fasting and crying out on her behalf. For three days, she's fasting and her maidens are fasting with her so that she can get spiritually right before she even considers how to approach this difficult situation.

We pick up the story in Esther 5:1. ***"On the third day Esther put on her royal robes."*** After three days of fasting, the ESV and most of our translations just use a terse description here. They say she put on her royal dress but it's not descriptive enough.

The Jews, to this day, use a paraphrase of the Hebrew text called targumim. They were originally written in Aramaic but they still use them today. This targum, this paraphrase, of Esther says right at the beginning of Esther 5:1, "She then adorned herself with the jewelry that queens adorn themselves. She put on a royal garment embroidered with the fine gold of Ophir. A fine silk dress encrusted with precious stones and pearls which were brought from land of Africa. Then she placed a fine gold crown upon her head and put shoes on her feet of pure refined gold.

Here's the point. The paraphrase brings out the description that Esther did everything she could to prepare for this critical meeting with the king.

She not only prepared herself spiritually, but she did everything she could to prepare physically. You and I might not put on pure refined gold shoes to approach our situation, but the same thing applies in our lives. Not only must we be fully prepared spiritually, but we must do everything we can to prepare physically in order to approach a critical situation. Esther does that.

She's now adorned as the queen, she's prepared as the queen; but even as the queen (even in that royal position), she's still going to approach this situation very carefully. She's going to approach it with humility and in God's wisdom. She's our example to follow, so watch her closely.

Remember, before we go, Esther 4:11 says that anybody who shows up unannounced in the king's royal throne room while he's seated on the throne (doing royal business) is killed. "Off with their heads." It was an agenda protector for the king. He didn't get a lot of interruptions because anybody who showed up there unrequested would just be killed. It got the word out: don't bother the king.. If Esther goes to the king, there are only two things that can happen – either off with her head or he can hold out the royal scepter, which means he'll break that law and allow her to speak.

The problem is that Esther hasn't been called in to see the king for 30 days which means that the king probably wasn't enamored with her at this point. It's a very, very difficult situation. Esther was doing everything she could to prepare accordingly. The lives of maybe ten million plus Jews hung in the balance. The question to us is: What are you doing to prepare for that circumstance or situation? How long have you spent in fasting and in prayer? What size of a support group do you have fasting, praying, and crying out to God for you? How much have you done to prepare yourself to even approach this circumstance?

What we generally do is just go bursting into some situation and blurt out what we think. Why? Because we are full of pride. That's why. Because we just know what we know is right, what we feel is right, and what we're going to do is right. We've never been wrong yet as far as we know, so let's just go bust in there like a bull in a china shop. That would be the opposite of wisdom, the opposite of humility, and it's the opposite of the way Esther handles herself.

She's been prepared. Continuing in 5:1 of Esther, "***and (Esther) stood in the inner court of the king's palace*** (that's where she shouldn't have been), ***in front of the king's quarters*** (that's where she really shouldn't have been), ***while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace.***" That means he was doing business.

That means she was in the "off with her head" position at this point. She had to get there because of the crisis. She had to make this move. She had to get herself in this place where she could address this situation. But she didn't do it on her own on accord. She didn't do it without agonizing, prayer, fasting, and as much preparation as she could.

Then at some point she finally said, "Okay, now's the time. Today's the day. I'm going to put myself there, but I'm going to do it with humility and with wisdom." The tension right now is at level ten. Esther is either going to be killed or heard.

At this moment God decides and Esther, joining God, affects and impacts the lives millions of people. It's an exaggerated illustration of our lives because you and I get in these positions where we're like, "I'm going to walk into that" or "I'm going to bring up this subject" or "I'm going to address this" and it could go really bad. This is a critical moment.

Being filled with the Spirit, being prepared spiritually, doing everything possible, picking the time and the place and approaching it carefully – that's humility and wisdom. We're

not just barging in based on our own emotions or thoughts. That's pride. Esther's in this extremely volatile situation and she's done everything she can do.

Verse 2 of Esther 5 says, "***And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight.***" Phew! There should be a drama team up here acting this out. Just see it in your mind. Oh no, you've got your situation in the mind, you can't have both – your mind's not that big. Keep the situation in your mind.

Esther comes into the king and she won favor. Why? Because God was going before her. But just the fact that God was going before her does not mean that Esther could still burst in and spill her guts. She could not just run into the king's throne room and start unloading baggage on him. She still had to approach this with wisdom and humility.

Verse 2 continues, "***She won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter (which means she gets to both live and speak) that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.***"

Verse 3 "***And the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom."***" This is a Hebrew idiom. It's like us saying, "Baby, I will give you anything you want." I've said that to my kids since they were six months old. I say it to my grandkids now. "I know it's his third pack of Fun Fruit. So what? He wants another one. What? It says fruit right on the box!"

That's what this is. The king says to Esther, "Esther, I will give you whatever you want. Just ask." It looks like God has opened the door, right? It looks like God has made a way for Esther and, if she were us, she would probably jump right in. "Great. God has opened the door. I'm going to speak now while I've got a chance. I'm going to lay it out for the king." But instead of blurting out this critical, critical conversation, Esther chooses to change the environment.

You would say, "Why would she change the environment? He's on the royal throne. That's where he makes his edicts and his decrees. He's already told her he'd give her everything she wants." I don't know. It's Esther's situation. The question is, what about your situation? What if God is leading Esther? In fact, he is and we'll see it as we continue. To us we might say, "Esther, why didn't you just blurt it out?"

Instead, in verse 4 of Esther 5 it says, "***And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the king and Haman (that's one reason that Esther didn't just blurt out her issue) come today***

to a feast (look very closely in verse 4) *that I have prepared* (that means prepared already, past tense) *for the king.*”

"I've already prepared a feast for you, king, and Haman in my quarters, back on my turf, in my area of the palace. I need you to come over to my side of the palace, just you and Haman and we're going to have some turkey legs together. Those big ones they sell at Disneyland.”

Proverbs 4:11 says, *"I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths."* There's a purpose that God told Esther, "Bring them onto your side of the deal. Bring Haman in and get him in your side of the palace on your turf and we'll see this develop." The question is, was Esther listening to God? I believe the answer is yes. I believe we see the hand of God in this and, as we go into the next two chapters, we'll really see this.

For you personally, the question is, what is God telling you in your circumstance? How do I approach this person? How do I breach this subject? How do I tell this person this? How do I address this situation or this circumstance in my life? God will lead you.

Proverbs 4:11 says, *"I will teach you wisdom's ways."* you know what wisdom is. Wisdom is the right application of knowledge. How many of you know people who have knowledge and don't use it very wisely? We can very easily have knowledge and do great damage.

God says, *"I will teach you wisdom,"* the right application of knowledge. *"I will lead you in straight paths."* In your own situation that you still have in your mind, are you taking the necessary time to seek God? Are you fasting, praying, and bringing in support people to fast and pray with you? Are you preparing yourself in every way? Are you preparing yourself spiritually? Are you preparing yourself physically? Are you doing what's necessary before you cross this line?

Are you looking to God to lead you in the right application of the knowledge you have? That's what we're seeing in Esther. Or are you just running full-speed ahead, willy-nilly, bull in the china shop, just out of control, running into a situation? Then you go, "Do you know what? I was totally right. I don't know why everything's destroyed around me. The knowledge I had was correct. Why is everybody mad? Why is there such a big conflict? Don't they know I'm right?" That's what we do naturally.

Esther was willing to let God lead her and God was leading her. She had already prepared the feast. This is a critical conversation. She had prayed it through, she has prepared it,

and she's saying, "The Lord is leading me to get the king and Haman to sit down in my side of the palace and eat." There needs to be some food involved and Haman needs to be there. This is wisdom. So she requests a private banquet.

Esther 5:5 ***"Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked." So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared."*** Now, they're on her turf. It's just the three of them and the servants. It seems like it's working out.

Verse 6, ***"And as they were drinking wine after the feast..."*** Again, it's just a wonderful setting, right? They've eaten their turkey legs and they're drinking their wine. Turkey and wine together – that's like valium. Turkey's got that tryptophan in it that makes you sleep during the football game. So with that and wine, you think "Okay. They're ready." Esther's got it worked out. She's laying everything out.

"And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

We think, "This is it, Esther. You have dialed it in perfect. You've approached it in humility and wisdom. You've set it all up. You've prayed; you've fasted. This is it. Drop the bomb, bring it up, get it done." But instead, Esther goes way out on a limb. You've got to read this and go, "Why?" But that's not really the right question.

The question is, "What about me, Lord in my situation? What are you calling me to do? If I'm in the situation that Esther's in..." And trust me, you are. Maybe not ten million Jewish lives on the line, but maybe potential calamity and destruction in your family or in relationships are on the line.

If God's leading you but you're so anxious to do what you know is right and to get your opinion out, your proof out, your whatever it is out. Is God saying, "Yeah, just go ahead and bowl everybody over. Just leave them lying on the side of the road." Or is he challenging you to do it carefully and to do it his way?

Esther 5:7. After what we think looks like a perfect set up, it says, ***"Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is: If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request*** (We think, "Here we go, she's going to ask him to do something about this incredible decree," but no. She says

instead), *let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said.*"

"I promise you king (husband, king), tomorrow I'll tell you. Just come back one more time. Have dinner with me one more time." This is not manipulation. This is patience. This is the leading of God's guiding. If you'll read ahead the next chapter and a little bit into the following, you'll see. God had a plan.

Don't you know that God has a plan in the difficult circumstance or situation that you're in right now? God has a plan. you're either going to join him and he's going to bring his purpose to pass or you're going to get ahead of him or in his way or hinder him or just be prideful.

Esther's joining God's plan here. She's saying, "Yeah. It looks perfect, but I really feel led to have you guys back for another meal." you'll find out that what happens in chapter 6 had to happen before what Esther brings up happens. What happens in the next chapter had to happen before Esther tells the king about Haman's diabolical plan.

That means God sovereignly has a reason for Esther asking for another dinner date. God has a plan; he's working something out. Did Esther know? I don't know. I doubt it. I doubt she knew. My guess is that she just felt that was the right thing to do. She's been in prayer; she's been in fasting. This is probably the first meal she's eaten in three or four days. God is leading her because God has a plan that Esther doesn't know.

It's the same in your life, the same in my life. If God says, "Hey, wait. Just chill. Just give me a second. Remember, I'm God so I'm there already. Just give me some time. Set another dinner date before you approach this."

Esther has approached this critical situation beautifully. Aren't you in awe of how Esther has done this? Wow, that's so sweet. She's just honest. She's being led by God. God's just lining everything up and you see it. It's like walking through a beautiful meadow and suddenly stepping in a pile of dog doo. You got it? Can you smell it? For some reason, I can smell it today every time I've ever stepped in it. That's exactly what happens at this point in this story. We go from this beautiful picture of patience and humility to... Haman. It's like stepping in a pile of doo in the middle of a beautiful meadow.

Enter Haman, verse 9. Haman's on top of the world. He's just had dinner with the king and the queen. Verse 9 says, "*And Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart.*" Haman's like big man on campus. Everything's going really well for him. If you look at

him from the outside and you think, “This guy has got it going on. He's having a personal dinner with the king and the queen. He's the king's top guy. Everything's happening.”

But have you ever noticed that when we (not they), you and I, are captured by pride that it just takes one little burr under our saddle to set us off? Have you ever noticed that? The more prideful we are, the less it takes to inflame us. The more we are caught up with ourselves (that's ego), the less it takes to really make us angry.

Here's Haman at the top of the heap eating with the king and the queen, then verse 9 continues. ***"But when Haman saw Mordecai*** (Mordecai is an insignificant, nothing of a Jew. He's just an old guy hanging out at the gate in sandals.) ***in the king's gate, that he neither rose nor trembled before him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai."***

He is minutes from walking away from the king and the queen in her personal dining quarters. He's on top of the world, but one guy – "That guy right there, doesn't give me the respect I deserve" – and all of a sudden, Haman goes from king of the world to wrath-filled person. One little rub sets his pride off because our pride can't handle it. It happens, doesn't it, when we're so right, so determined, so full of ourselves?

Someone just says, "Yeah, but that was wrong." We just fall off the stage. “I just said one little thing. What are you so upset about?” “I'm upset because you nicked my pride. I'm upset because you rubbed my ego wrong.” Dog doo. Just bringing that picture back up for you.

Haman did manage to restrain himself from going completely berserk. Verse 10, ***"Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and brought his friends and his wife Zeresh."***

We think, “Okay. This is good, Haman. Bring in some friends and family for support.” Not even. Afraid not. Not for Haman. Haman is bringing in his friends and his family to pump up his own ego. This is us. This is a picture of us.

My ego was bruised over there so I've got to create this environment where my ego gets pumped up. My pride was nicked over there so I've got to polish it up in this area. Someone's not giving me the respect I deserve at work so I'm going to get it from my wife or my kids. I have to pump up my deflated ego. Not theirs, ours.

Verse 11 Esther 5 ***"And Haman recounted to them the splendor of his riches."*** “Hey, gather around a little bit. I just want to talk about myself for a while. Listen carefully.” It

would be funny if it wasn't so accurate in our lives. *"And Haman recounted to them the splendor of his riches, the number of his sons, all the promotions with which the king had honored him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and the servants of the king."*

Esther 5:12 *"Then Haman said, "Even Queen Esther let no one but me come with the king to the feast she prepared. And tomorrow also I am invited by her together with the king."*

Do you see it? I, me, mine. That's pride. That's ego on steroids. When we see it in other people, it makes us sick. Here's the thing. You've got to hear me. Haman is a mirror. Haman is an exaggeration of our own self-centeredness. Haman is an exaggerated illustration of who we are. He's a mirror and we must look at him and say, "Yeah, that's me. That's what I do by nature. That is my nature – to be just as me-centered as Haman."

Haman is saying, "What about me? What about me?" he's defending himself. Have you ever done that – defended yourself? He's building himself up. He's convincing himself that he is all that he thinks he is. And, hopefully to a lesser degree, he's illustrating us. That's what we do.

The first hope for us to be transformed and to recognize what the sin nature looks like. It looks like Haman. It's prideful, egotistical, and arrogant. There's no hope for us until we recognize it in ourselves. Most of the time we're pretty sure we're right. Most of the time we're positive our way is best. Most of the time we don't think that anything should go any way but our way. That is ego. "Somebody tell everybody I am the center of the universe. I'm the one that's right. I'm the one that knows. I'm the one that knows how this should work out." That's Haman.

The only way we're going to learn humility ever in our lives is to recognize the pride that controls us and then allow God to crucify it because as long as we're protecting that pride – that ego, that me-centeredness – God will just periodically (if we're lucky) bring in the sledgehammer to help us. But as soon as we're broken God says, "I don't need the ten ton pulverizing hammer anymore. He's already broken. Now I can pour humility into him." Get it?

The secret is to get broken quickly so that God can transform you. We've got to see the exaggerated picture of Haman as ourselves so that God can reveal our own pride, our own sense of self-aggrandizement, self-centeredness, self-thought, self-focus. As soon as we get to that place, we open the door of our hearts and our lives for God to say, "Okay.

Now I'll show you my way. It's opposite of your way. Now that your way is out of the way, I can show you my way. It's called wisdom and humility. It's different than your way. It's opposite of your way." That's when we have hope.

What keeps us from humility and wisdom is our pride and ego. What keeps us from being transformed by God? Our love for ourselves. As soon as that's crucified in our lives, God can do anything he wants in us.

Back to Haman – the picture of ourselves. After this grand display of ego-building, look at verse 13. The same thing. We see how fragile the ego is. He says all that in verses 11 and 12, and then in verse 13 he says, ***"Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."***

A ton of ego-building broken down because one insignificant person rubs his ego or pride wrong. "Because that person won't acknowledge me as king." For Haman it's his position, but for us it's like king of the world. "This person won't agree with me that I'm all that so it doesn't matter what else I've got going. I need that person to bow to me." It's a sickness with a name. It's called sin. ***"Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."***

Listen husbands – I see some wives too like this, but husbands especially – let me just talk to you. If you have a real pride problem, give your wife the right to not feed into your insanity. Just tell her, "Honey, you don't have to feed my maniacal ego. I give you the right to challenge to me. I give you the right to tell me I'm wrong. I give you the right to not feed into my sickness called pride." Look at what Haman's wife does.

Verse 14 ***"Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, 'Let a gallows fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it (This will help your bruised ego honey. Go impale a guy on a 75 foot pole). Then go joyfully with the king to the feast.'*** (and notice) ***This idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made."***

The ESV uses "gallows." your version might say "stake" because it's the same Hebrew word for gallows or stake. 75 feet high – probably built on a hill or a platform. It's important to note that in those days, impaling was much more common than hanging. So this was probably a reference to impaling Mordecai on a big tall pole for everyone to see. You would say, "Certainly, I would never literally do that," but we would figuratively.

That person that won't feed my pride and won't acknowledge that I am who I know I am, I'm going to impale them on pole so high everybody will see them. I told you Haman was us. There's a little bit of Haman in all of us. It's called the sin nature. Haman is the mirror and it smells bad – really bad.

Here's the deal. The key to beginning to allow God to transform you into a humble and wise follower of Christ is recognizing what pride and ego is doing in your life. That's the first step so that God can pierce you and let that poison drain out. Then he can renew your mind and thereby transform you. But if we refuse to see the Haman tendencies in our own lives, then we will continue sliding into the Haman abyss, and at some point, there is no return.

At some point there is no return for those who slide into the Haman abyss of pride and egotism. Don't go down that road. Recognize it in yourself and in ourselves. Repent of it so that we can begin to be transformed to walk in humility and wisdom. Realize that your natural tendency is to look like Haman. God's desire is to transform you into the humility of Esther. That's the picture today. It's not easy.

I'm talking from personal experience here. Being broken takes a lot longer and a lot more times than you think and it's a lot more painful than you like. But the fruit of it is the fruit of humility, patience and wisdom. I'm not saying I'm there, but God's down from the 20 ton hammer to the 5 ton hammer. I'm definitely breaking easier after 20 plus years of it. That's my prayer for us – that we would break quickly.

Here's the real problem that you want to avoid. If that situation that you're thinking about in your mind involves two Hamans – you and the other person – we call that relational conflict. Somebody has to have the wisdom of Esther and if that other person doesn't, that means it's up to you. Even though you're right, even though they should be listening to you, even though it should work out exactly like you think it should, somebody's got to be Esther. Allow God to crucify that Haman pride in us so we can begin to walk in humility.

Proverbs 16:18 says, "***Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.***" That's an arrogant spirit. Let me tell you something. Please hear me. **God is not mocked.** If God promises that pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit goes before a fall, then that is exactly what will happen. Exactly. You can take it to the bank. God will make sure of it. We're going to see it as we follow Haman. In chapter 5 we see his pride and arrogance. In chapter 6 we see his fall. It's guaranteed – in Haman's life and in our life.

We've got to believe it; we've got to see it. God help us to recognize our prideful and arrogant tendencies, to repent of them (which means turn the other direction), and to renew our mind so that we can be transformed. Recognize your sin of pride, repent of it, and renew your mind so that God can transform you into the person he desires you to be. That's all I have for today.

Let's pray.

Lord, please help us. Lord, help us see ourselves in a true and honest light. Help us to recognize Haman as our mirror. Help us to recognize the Haman tendencies in our lives, Lord. God, we pray that you would crucify in us the pride, the ego, and the self-focus that prevents you from transforming us, Lord. God, we willingly lay ourselves on the altar. We pray that you would pierce our hearts, God, that we would be broken and saved. That we would be broken and transformed. That we would be humbled and used by you.

That we would be in a place, Lord, that you can lead and guide us for your namesake. Right now Lord, we just lift up that situation that you've put in our mind in our own lives. That person, that circumstance, that difficulty. Lord, we repent of our mistakes in that situation. We turn from our pride and from our mistaken knowledge that we are so right. We turn from it right now. We pray that you would transform us into humility and wisdom.

That you would show us what you have for us, that you would literally guide our steps and our choices, and that we would allow you to go before us to work and that we would join you in your plan; not ask you to join us in justifying or defending our plan. We surrender to you in this specific situation. We surrender to you. We don't have the desire to win or be justified, vindicated or proven, we just desire, Lord, to be used by you. We desire to be transformed by you. We desire, Lord, to be new people.

We pray, God, that you would bring us to this place of repentance, that you would fill us with your spirit, and for the power to be transformed. That Lord, you would glorify yourself in our actions and in our choices. We thank you for it. In Jesus' name, amen.