

February 13th

PRIDE GOES BEFORE A FALL

“Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” **GENESIS 11:4**

What causes men to stumble? If you had to name a sin that disrupts every man’s heart, which sin would it be? Men, God calls us to be doctors of our souls. We can’t just look at the surface problems that cause us pain. We must look at root causes. But here’s the problem, God has told us the truth about our hearts... “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can understand it?” Proverbs 4:23 gives a warning for guarding our hearts, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” So what’s our core problem? The Bible shows us repeatedly that pride is the sin that plagues humanity...but especially trips up men. What do we find in the story of Babel in Genesis 11?

Make note of the actions that are called for in verse four and the motive for these actions. Have you seen them yet? Number one surface problem...let’s build ourselves a city. Number two problem...we don’t want to be dispersed over the whole face of the earth. Sandwiched between these two problems is the root cause...pride. Let’s make a name for ourselves! Sounds a lot like our world that we live in today. As men, we want respect, honor, and a strong reputation. We want our independence. We don’t want God to become too involved in our hearts. This is the problem of Babel.

The pride of Babel leads to disobedience. How did they disobey? You may have already picked up on their disobedience...God told Noah to be fruitful and multiply and *fill* the earth. Instead, they build a city. Building a city is about setting up roots and building a metropolis where everyone is together. They don’t want to spread abroad like God has commanded them. Babel’s sin can be obvious to us. But this disobedience comes from pride, which has already showed its ugly face. Just reread the actions of the sinful men to build a city. Genesis 4 describes Cain as building a city. Genesis 10 describes Nimrod as building a city. All of these actions come from the root sin of pride.

Men, these actions aren’t just about distant men from thousands of years ago. Our hearts also crave to be kings of our own land and kings of our own hearts. But God. God has made us for Him and His glory. It’s time for men to take a hard look in the mirror and see that these problems of pride for these men in the Bible is the same problem that haunts your heart. The question is, do you recognize and throw off the sin of your pride? How difficult is it for you to ask forgiveness when you’ve hurt someone? How much of a control freak of your life are you? Do you live life to be served by others, or to serve others? Our Master sets the tone for us, men! Jesus says that anyone would be great among you, he must first be a servant!

Take time to reflect on ways that you have been affected by your pride. Ask a close friend or your spouse for any ways that you’ve been about you. Confess these to God.

For Further Reading: Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, and 22:4