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Groups Sermon Study Questions

The Pride Test

May 6, 2018

Message Summary

God has a dream and a purpose for everyone. To discover which of our dreams are from God we must first get to know him and to realize God's purpose for our lives we must pass some tests. Like Joseph, before we can live out our purpose, we must first overcome our pride. Pride is evidenced by the way we speak and act, but the roots of pride are jealousy and insecurity. Pride begins with a comparison, moves to competing with others to prove we are better and settles into arrogance. The first step toward humility is to admit that we are all tempted with pride. The next is to remember where we have come from, and then to realize who we are in Christ. Learning to put no confidence in ourselves, rather in Jesus is a test to pass and a lifelong process.

Consider This

What are some of your dreams? Do you think they line up with God's will for your life? Why or why not

How often do you compare yourself to someone else? Why do we make such comparisons?

As we get to know God, we can better discern his will, and our dreams and desires will line up with his purpose for us, both today and tomorrow. Read John 15:1-15 and answer the following questions about how God shows us his dream for our lives.

Study Questions

- 1. What does it mean to abide in Jesus according to verse 4-5? What will it produce? Why?
- 2. According to verse 7, what does it mean to abide in Jesus' words? How does that apply to your life?
- 3. According to verses 8-10, what does it mean to abide in Jesus' love? How is that done, and how does that apply to your life today?
- 4. Read verses 14-15, what does God promise to do for his friends (see also John 14:21)?
- C.S. Lewis said, "Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man . . . It was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." And, "It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone." (Mere Christianity)
- 5. Read James 3:14-16. What are the implications and results of pride in our lives?
- 6. Read Matthew 15:18–19. In what way do our words reveal what's in our heart? What does pride sound like?
- 7. According to Proverbs 11:2, 13:10, 16:18, 29:23 and James 4:6, why would God not allow us to reach our destiny when there is pride in our heart?
- 8. According to Philippians 2:3–8, how should we deal with pride in our lives? How then should you view that person in your life that you tend to look down upon (see also Genesis 1:26–27)?

- 9. According to Mark 10:41–45, how did Jesus say we should deal with pride in our lives?
- 10. According to Philippians 3:3-15, how should we deal with insecurity that can lead to pride?

Moving Forward

- 1. If you do not have a dream in your heart, ask one or two people in the group to pray with you to ask God to reveal His dream for you this week.
- 2. Make a list of who and what you are apart from Christ according to Ephesians 2:1-3. Then make a list of who and what you are in Christ according to Ephesians 1:3-14. Review these lists each day this week.
- 3. List the things that you have and possess that you value the most. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7 and give thanks for each item on your list each day this week and see how that affects your heart and attitude.