

1. GOING DEEPER

Esther 5:9-14

1) a) "God opposes the proud." Does this mean that God does not want Christians to be successful?

b) How can a Christian remain humble in the face of promotion from God?

c) Read James 4:6. Why do the humble receive grace and the proud receive opposition from God?

2) a) Esther 5:12 relates Haman bragging about being invited to the feast. What does Proverbs 16:18 have to say about this?

b) When Haman thought about Mordecai he became so consumed with hate that he could not be sober minded. Why do you think this was?

c) In Esther 5:9 Haman goes from being "joyful and glad of heart" to being "filled with wrath". What does this say about his emotional stability?


3) a) Can you name any characters of the Bible who God would have opposed because of their pride and arrogance?

b) What are some of the ways that we may encourage one another to be sober minded?

c) As humans who have been tainted by a sinful fallen nature, how do we protect ourselves against the dangers of pride and arrogance?

2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

1) To what extent do you manifest pride and arrogance in your life?



I struggle with pride and arrogance

I am working towards a place of humility but pride steps in at times

I constantly surrender to God in humility

2) What can you do ensure that you remain humble?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. APPLICATION

Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week?

_____. I will ask _____ to hold me *accountable* in this.

Key Verse

James 4:6 (ESV)

"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" "

Sermon Main Points

Sermon Highlights

God opposes the proud and arrogant. To avoid being proud and arrogant, believers should seek to:

- Be Emotionally Stable
- Be Humble
- Be Sober Minded
- Be Good

- God opposes the proud and arrogant as can be seen in the disposition of Haman
- Pride is defined as feeling honored, satisfied, or happy about a fact. Arrogance is excessive pride in oneself often with contempt for others.
- Humility is having rightly placed confidence. Be humble and avoid the pride and arrogance of personal success.
- Hatred is an intoxicating emotion. It has the power to remove rational thought

It pays off to be humble and push pride to the corner

5 Day Study Plan ("Study to show yourself Approved unto God...")

Day 1

Philippians 2:3-5

What I learned (observation / interpretation):

How I will Respond (application):

Day 2

Psalms 138:6

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 3

Proverbs 11:2

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 4

1 Samuel 2: 3

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 5

Proverbs 29:23

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Inductive Bible Study Method



Observation (What does the text say?)

This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.

Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five W's and H: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).



Interpretation (What does the text mean?)

Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine

- What is the **main theme** and what is the **meaning** of key words;
- Examine **cross references**
- Compare **translations**
- **Summarize** the text
- **Use** commentaries (last resort)



Application (How should this affect Me?)

Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself "How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?"

Seek to identify if there are - **Sins** to confess; **Promises** to claim; **Examples** to follow; **Actions** to obey or **Knowledge** to grow in.

For best results, this content should be read and prepared privately and then discussed in your small group or with family / friends.

We were not created to do life alone - get engaged today.

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