

Sermon Handout: God's Sovereignty Over Human Arrogance

Focus Passage: Acts 12:20-24

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Opening Prayer:

Begin your quiet time with a prayer asking God to open your heart and mind to His Word and to guide your reflections.

Read Acts 12:20-24 (NIV):

"He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, 'This is the voice of a god, not of a man.' Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to spread and flourish."

Reflective Questions:

1. Reflection on Pride:

- How did Herod Agrippa's pride lead to his downfall?
- What are some subtle ways pride can creep into your own life?
- Read Proverbs 16:18. How does this verse speak to the dangers of pride?

2. Identifying Spiritual Pride:

- What is spiritual pride, and why is it dangerous?
- Have you ever struggled with feeling superior in your spiritual life? How did it affect your relationships with others?
- Read James 4:10. How does humility lift us up in God's eyes?

3. Combating Spiritual Pride:

- What practical steps can you take to guard against pride in your life?
- How can you practice humility daily?
- Discuss the importance of prayer in maintaining humility and reliance on God.

4. The Necessity of Prayer:

- Why is prayer crucial in guarding against pride?
- Share a time when prayer helped you overcome a struggle with pride.
- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2. How can you better support those in authority through prayer?

5. Magnifying Christ:

- In what ways can you ensure that Christ is magnified in your life?
- How does focusing on Christ help keep your pride in check?
- Read Colossians 3:17. How can this verse guide your daily actions and attitudes?

Personal Reflection:

1. Self-Examination:

- Take a moment to silently reflect on areas of your life where pride might be creeping in.
- How can you address these areas with humility and prayer?

2. Prayer for Others:

- Are you praying for your family, friends, and leaders? Commit to lifting them up in prayer this week.

3. Accountability:

- Consider finding an accountability partner to help you stay humble and focused on Christ.

Action Steps:

1. Daily Self-Examination:

- Each day, reflect on your actions and attitudes. Are you seeking glory for yourself, or are you giving glory to God?

2. Seek Accountability:

- Surround yourself with trusted friends or mentors who can speak truth into your life. Be open to their feedback.

3. Practice Humility:

- Serve others, put their needs above your own, and remember that all you have is a gift from God.

4. Pray Continually:

- Make prayer a regular part of your daily routine. Pray for a humble heart, for God's guidance, and for protection against pride.

5. Magnify Christ:

- In everything you do, let Christ be magnified. In your successes, give Him the glory. In your struggles, seek His strength.

Closing Prayer:

Conclude your quiet time with a prayer, asking God to help you walk in humility, seek His face in prayer, and build your life on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse:

Romans 11:36 (NIV): "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

Use this handout throughout your week to deepen your understanding of God's Word and to cultivate a heart of humility and reliance on Christ.