

5-Day Sermon Practical Application Devotional:

Conquering Pride, Embracing Humility

Day 1: The Enemy Within

Reading: **Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6-10**

Devotional:

Pride wears many masks in our lives, often disguising itself as humility, self-awareness, or spiritual maturity. Like the Pharisee (Luke 18:11) who prayed loudly about his righteousness, we can serve God while secretly serving ourselves.

Today, ask yourself honestly: "Is self at the center?" Pride doesn't always announce itself with arrogance; sometimes it whispers through our unwillingness to serve, our resistance to correction, or our need for recognition.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The first step toward freedom is facing the truth about ourselves without blame-shifting or excuses.

Stop pretending pride isn't there. Face it. Own it. Surrender it to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith.

Today's Challenge

Face It, Own It, Surrender It

- ◆ Identify one area where pride exists in your life
- ◆ Confess it to God without excuse or blame-shifting
- ◆ Ask God to help you surrender this area to Him daily

~ **Minister Kelvin L. Briggs**



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Day 2: The Mask of False Humility

Reading: Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 25:14-30

Devotional: Sometimes our "humility" is just pride wearing a different costume. When we refuse to serve because we don't want to appear self-seeking, we're still making it about us. When we hide our talents claiming we don't want attention, we're focused on

ourselves. The tax collector in Jesus' parable didn't perform humility—he genuinely recognized his need for mercy. True humility isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less often.

Consider: are you declining opportunities to serve God because you're genuinely humble, or because you're worried about how you'll appear?

The wicked servant wasn't rebellious; he simply did nothing. Don't let pride masquerade as modesty. Serve heartily as unto the Lord, not for human recognition.

Today's Challenge

Serve Secretly

- Do something to serve someone without anyone knowing it was you
- Don't post it, don't mention it, don't hint at it

• Reflect on how it feels to serve purely for God's glory

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Day 3: Receiving Correction with Grace

Reading: Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 29:1; Hebrews 12:5-11

Devotional: The hardest words for a Christian to say are "I was wrong." When correction comes, pride immediately asks: "Who are you to tell me? Why now? Why that way?" But humility simply asks: "Is this true about me?" If multiple people keep telling you the same thing about yourself, don't dismiss everyone. The Bible warns that those who are often rebuked but harden their necks will suddenly be destroyed without remedy.

Reflect, don't react. Listen instead of preparing your defense. Change instead of justifying. The manner of delivery doesn't negate the message. God disciplines those He loves. When someone courageously shares truth with you, receive it as God's gift for your growth. Your soul matters more than your ego.

Today's Challenge

Receive Correction Gracefully

- If someone corrects you this week, practice saying "Thank you for sharing that with me"
- Don't defend, don't explain, don't justify - just receive it
- Later, reflect on whether there's truth in what was said

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Day 4: Pride in Relationships

Reading: Philippians 2:3-8; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Devotional: Pride devastates relationships—in marriage, friendship, and church fellowship. When conflict arises, pride asks "Who is right?" but humility asks "What is right?" Consider your closest relationships. How often do disagreements center on your need to be acknowledged, appreciated, or vindicated?

Pride says "It's all about me" while masquerading as concern for truth or principle. Even theological disagreements can become monuments to our ego rather than pursuits of God's truth. Jesus, though equal with God, humbled Himself to death on a cross. He modeled thinking of others above ourselves.

Today, **examine one strained relationship**. Is your pride demanding recognition, apology, or validation? What would change if you focused on reconciliation rather than being right?

Today's Challenge

Ask For Feedback

- Go to someone you trust (spouse, close friend, mentor)
- Ask: "Is there an area where you see pride in my life?"
- Listen without defending yourself



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Day 5: Building Monuments or Building Character

Reading: 1 Samuel 15:1-23; Psalm 51:1-17

Devotional: King Saul built a monument to himself after victory, then blamed others for his disobedience. We build monuments too—not with stone, but with our reputation, our need for praise, our carefully curated image.

The most dangerous monument is the one in your heart that refuses correction. When confronted, Saul said "I" when claiming success but "they" when explaining failure. David, when confronted by Nathan, simply said "I have sinned against God." One king made excuses; the other owned his sin. Which response characterizes your life?

Pride has brought you low long enough. Stop building monuments to yourself. **Face your pride.** Own it without blame-shifting. Surrender it at the cross. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. Leave your pride at Calvary today.

Today's Challenge

Check Your Monuments

- Like Saul who built himself a monument, identify what "monuments" you've built to yourself
- Is it your reputation? Your achievements? Your knowledge?
- Pray for God to tear down these monuments in your heart