

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Pride

"Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there." – Anonymous

"The proud will sooner lose than ask their way." – Charles Churchill

"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you're looking down, you can't see something that's above you." – C.S. Lewis

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." – Prov. 16:18

"A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor." – Prov. 29:23

One of the most amazing groups of people in sacred writings is that of the Pharisees. Literally, they were "separatists," as they separated themselves from others and placed themselves in an exalted state. Along with the scribes, they wanted others to see them as being high and lifted up. There is an almost humorous description of how they would broaden the borders of their garments and enlarge their phylacteries, i.e. the pouches that contained their sacred Scriptures (Matt. 23:5), all for the express purpose of being seen by men.

What is hard to grasp is the number of times that Jesus performed miracles, and yet in their pride and arrogance, they could not bring themselves to acknowledge that it was of God. For example, in John 5, we find a man who had been paralyzed for some 38 years. He was healed and able to walk. But all that they could do was focus on the fact that it was down on the Sabbath, and that the Lord dared to make Himself equal with God.

In John 9 our Lord healed a man who had been blind from birth. In their pride and arrogance, once again they could not bring themselves to acknowledge the wonderful miracle of God. Even the blind man professed to them that he was now able to see, but not once did they praise God for the happiness of this man.

It is hard to believe that pride can be so blinding. When we are overcome with it, there is no room for God. Perhaps that is why we find it at the top of the list of concerns in the famed Sermon on the Mount. Our Lord opened by saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). Without humility we can never find room in our hearts for God.

On one occasion our Lord said, "...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14).