



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Pass the Promise Series, Lesson 10

Lesson Title: Tower of Babel

Take Home Point: God opposes the proud but favors the humble.

Warm-Up:

What happens in a culture that doesn't know or accept God as Creator and Redeemer? Self worth becomes based on a person's works compared to an accepted cultural standard, either secular or religious. For example, in America it is typically material wealth that establishes worth. In other cultures, it is frequently how one conforms to religious or social rules. In any case, from there it is a small step to compare my works to everyone else's and rank each person's worth, including my own. The result is arrogance toward those I think are worth less or less "successful." This puts me in opposition to God himself.

Read: Genesis 11:1-9

Observation (What happened?):

Why did the people want to build a city and tower?

In addition to mixing up languages, what did the Lord do to the people according to Genesis 11:8-9?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why was the Lord concerned that "nothing they plan to do will be too difficult"?

Read Genesis 6:5 with 11:4 to discover the disobedience that resulted from arrogance.

Insight:

What is the difference between pride and arrogance? Pride is an emotion based on my opinion of my self, beliefs, attitudes, or actions. Arrogance is pride in action and only shows up in relationships. It is acceptable to feel proud that you did something well, as long as you recognize the source of your abilities and actions is the God who made you and gave you the opportunity. However, pride becomes the sin of arrogance the moment it leads to believing some people are less significant, or more significant, than others. How you view significance determines how you treat people with whom you have direct contact, and also how you think of people on the other side of the globe. That is why God opposes the arrogant. Every person is equally and infinitely significant in God's eyes; that truth is the very core of the good news that Jesus died for us all.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Where in your life are you "building your tower," trusting in your own accomplishments for self worth and the measure of success instead of humbly admitting that all you are and have comes from God?

Pride and arrogance are subtle and insidious. Ask God to show you where they are getting in the way of a relationship in your life or affecting your attitude toward other people who need Jesus.

Kingdom Quest Year 1, Lesson 10