

C.S. LEWIS ON PRIDE

"There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit"

Mere Christianity : Book III, Chapter 8

Barriers to Belief (Part 1)

2 Kings 5:1-16

- Background:

- We have a great and proud man

- Lucifer's fall
- Dante has it as his lowest rung in purgatory ladder
- Lewis calls it a cancer
- Not vanity

- There is a sovereign God behind the scenes

- Ravi Zacharias tapes thief
- Victory for Aram (not merely involved with Israel)
- Israelite slave girl

- God uses an instrumental unknown

- An Israelite slave girl
- She is compassionate
- She has strong faith

- Barrier:

- Most people are willing to go God's way if he will

go their way.

- Naaman had to be stripped of his pride
- God was interested in Naaman's obedience

- Are you willing to go God's way ?

"After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"

- Acts 13:22

Community Group Homework

For the week of May 3rd, 2009

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your sermon notes, was there any particular point or passage of Scripture that most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are the simple things that God asks you to do that you find difficult to do? (What your equivalent of washing in the Jordan river?)
2. How are you faithful in the little things?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. How might Israel have felt knowing God was involved in allowing their defeat?
4. The king of Israel felt that the king of Aram was trying to pick a quarrel/fight with him.
 - a. How would you have felt if you were in his position?
 - b. Why did he tear his robes (vs. 7)? (see 2 Kings 11, 2 Kings 22:8-13, Job 2:11-13)

5. Naaman brought gifts with him to try to “buy” his healing. What kinds of things do we do to try and “buy” God’s will or get the answers to prayers we want in our lives?

2 Kings 5:17-19a

Naaman was asking for forgiveness before he sinned.

What do you think of what Naaman was doing?

Was he making allowance for sin?

Can you think of any equivalents to this in today’s culture?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Naaman struggled with Pride. What sins do you feel like are keeping you from God? What do you need to be stripped of in your life?
2. How has God been sovereign in your life? What can you testify to in your life that he has worked on?
3. Are you willing to go God’s way if he is willing to go your way? Or are you willing to go God’s way even if it hurts? What is keeping you from that?