



Proverbs 11: 2

BIG IDEA

Jesus' kingdom is about serving humbly. If you want to be first you have to not value being first.

ICE BREAKER

Our pride is going constantly from the moment we wake up. It is seen in little ways.

1. Can you think of a time you tried to hide when you felt weak or inferior?
2. What would it look like to humble yourself in a story like that?

NEXT STEP

What is one way you can face your prideful fears and seek the flourishing of others this week?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group the pride that you are seeing in your life through this sermon series. Confession like this may feel weak but it is powerful and it leads to humble connection with God and with one another. Consider praying together and thanking God for His beautiful pursuit of your heart through His exposure of your pride.
2. Beneath our pride is a fear of something!! Ask yourself this question: "In the midst of your pride exposed, what are you afraid of losing right now? Below are the 4 categories for reflection: 4 fears of pride:
Being wrong. This can be seen as defensive, critical, cautious so we won't be exposed. I can try to be unique so you can't compare me to others. I will over prepare so I won't be exposed. Or, I can be domineering: in peoples faces, loud. WE can be self-deprecating--we demean ourselves so others won't expect much

from us. We can be helpless/reserved: if the teacher asks a question I never raise my hand.

Being seen as weak. To prevent being seen as weak we can turn to anger--it keeps people off balance and it makes us look strong, Argumentative--we don't want to lose an argument because then we will look weak.

Obsessive--working out, eating habits, working...all to be not weak. We become experts. Grouchiness--it makes people stay away from us. Rescuing--I will help you in your weakness so I don't look weak. I won't let you help me because I am too proud.

Silence--keeps us from appearing weak. Aloof --carry ourselves in public where people won't sense warmth from us. Seductive--dress and talk seductively.

Being a failure: defensive, sneaky, blame shift, dishonest, explaining with long explanations why we were not a failure, half truths.

Being small: I don't want to be overlooked, to be passed by. Gossip--we tear people down to our size or even less than us. Complaining--we feel powerless so we complain.

Social media: use that to make us sound larger. Live vicariously through our kids or athletes. We are attempting to be bigger than we are. Exaggeration: stories have to be bigger so you won't forget me. Competitiveness: is pride in disguise. Hospitality: to make ourselves prominent.

NOTES AND QUOTES

Pride is the veiled belief that I am better than God. We then spend our whole life building on that thought and develop much of our personality to grow, defend, and justify our pride. Fear of losing drives much of our behavior.

Mark 9:33 Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing on the way?but they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest." They were quiet because their pride was exposed. Jesus is trying to penetrate their imagination.

Jesus' kingdom is about serving humbly. If you want to be first you have to not value being first.

Imagine being a child of Christ so it's ok if I fail and it's okay that I am weak. I can use my weakness to draw people to Christ.

Final truth about pride: the road to humility is to face our prideful fears and to imagine the kingdom. The kingdom is life-giving and it is about the flourishing of others (even our enemies) over our false sense of self-preservation.