



Pride & Prejudice!

SUNDAY EVENING • 18 MARCH 2007

❖ INTRODUCTION

● Ugliness of prejudice

For a moment, I want you to imagine, if you can, walking home from an anniversary party, when three individuals pick you up, take you to a remote area, beat you repeatedly, then while you are still alive chain you by your ankles to the back of a truck and then proceed to drag you for about two and a half to three miles down a logging road. The point in which you actually die after enduring a tremendous amount of pain and broken bones is when your head and arm are ripped from your body like a piece of paper is torn. Now stop imagining.

On June 7, 1998 this actually happened. James Byrd Jr. was in fact chained by his ankles to a pickup and dragged to pieces along three miles of road. Just because he was black.

● Roots of prejudice

- Racial Pride
- Social Pride
- Cultural Pride
- National Pride
- Spiritual Pride

● Ugliest Pride & Prejudice: Spiritual

❖ THE PASSAGE

Luke 18:9-14

❖ THE PURPOSE V. 9

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

❖ THE PLAYERS v. 10

- Pharisee: seen as one of the most **RIGHTEOUS** people of the day.
- Tax Collector: seen as one of the most **WICKED** people of the day.

❖ THE PARABLE v. 11-13

● Contrast

PHARISEE		TAX-COLLECTOR
Not: Swindler Unjust Adulterer	I Do: Fast Tithe	Looked down in shame Beat his breast in self humiliation "Be merciful to me a sinner"

● Conclusion v. 14

"I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- The Pharisees assessed themselves against their interpretations and application of God's Word and justified themselves before **GOD & men**.
- The Pharisees assessed others, condemned them, and viewed them with contempt.
- Jesus says the one who is truly **RIGHT** before God is humble, repentant Tax-collector, not the self-righteous, self-justifying Pharisee.

❖ THE PRINCIPLES

- **Spiritual pride leads to error in the evaluation of SELF.**
 - Spiritual pride is rooted in adopting the wrong standard of righteousness.
 - Spiritual pride leads to self justification by comparison with others and by passing judgement on others.
- **Spiritual pride leads to error in the evaluation of OTHERS**
 - Spiritual Pride leads to judging and condemning others not based on the doctrines and commands of scripture, but based on my application of commands, my preferences, my rules.
 - Spiritual pride insists others must be and do as it determines or else be labeled as unspiritual, liberal, or a compromiser.
 - Spiritual pride views others with an attitude of superiority.
- **Spiritual pride will lead to the exact opposite of BIBLICAL spirituality.**
 - Spiritual pride is evidenced by a focus on what I have done and am doing right.
 - Biblical spirituality focuses attention on what Christ has done.
 - Spiritual pride will focus one's attention on the "sins" and failures of others.
 - Biblical spirituality focuses attention on my own sins and failures.
 - Spiritual pride will focus attention on its own good works and accomplishments and will seek to gain recognition for those words and accomplishments.
 - Biblical spirituality will seek to focus attention and praise on the good works of others and the gracious God who made it happen.
 - Spiritual pride is demonstrated in an unbiblical separation from those who are deemed unspiritual.
 - Biblical spirituality leads to building relationships with the unspiritual to influence them for Christ.

❖ APPLICATION: Two Men . . . Two Messages . . . Two Responses

- The Self-Righteous Man
 - The Message: you are not righteous, you will be humbled by God.
 - The Response:
 - **REPENT** of pride in your righteousness.
 - **REPENT** of your trust in your righteousness.
 - **REPENT** of your prejudicial & judgmental attitudes toward others.
- The Repentant Man
 - The Message: you are forgiven and made righteous by faith in Christ. You will be exalted by God.
 - The Response:
 - **REST** in the righteousness of Christ given to you by grace.
 - **REST** in the relationship you have with God established by you faith in Christ's righteousness.
 - **REJOICE** in your exalted position before God.