

The Proud Ignore God's will

The Humble Rely on it

1 Kings 1:1-21

Perpetua

- lived in the second century AD.
- she was young noble 22 year old woman married with a nursing infant and a new convert to Christianity
 - in Rome being a Christian meant she was guilty of the heresy of not sacrificing for the worship of the Emperor
- Her father was a nobleman of high standing a very proud family known for their power and accomplishments
- she was arrested for her faith and sent to prison where she would stay until she renounced her faith
- if she didn't she would be put to death in the coliseum
- but even in the face of impending death and leaving her child behind she refused to renounce her faith
- Her father as well as others begged her to reconsider
- The night before she was to be executed in the arena she had a vision from God that gave her the assurance and comfort to know that God was with her
- that he was in control of the situation
- as she was led into the arena to face a certain death her family held up her infant child begging her to recant her Christian beliefs
- She Refused

- the Romans sent a bull at her that tossed her in the air.
 - Her garment was cut but she was relatively unhurt
 - Next they sent in wild beasts to devour her
 - they, for some reason were not interested in attacking her
 - thus they were forced to send in a Roman guard to finish the task
 - something came over this soldier and he became reluctant to deliver a death blow but merely stabbed at her
 - as he feebly thrust his sword at Perpetua she guided the blade so that it killed her
 - the audience was not amused by the spectacle
 - they were perplexed
 - what in the world would this young mother feel is so important to die for
 - the sacrifice was unnatural by the Roman standards or by her family's noble standards
 - The Romans and her family didn't understand it because they were proud and ...
- The Proud Ignore God's will
The Humble, like Perpetua, Rely on it

Power Play

¹ When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. ² So his servants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."

³ Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴ The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.

-remember this first part of the story I will be referring to it later

⁵ Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. ⁶ (His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

⁷ Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support. ⁸ But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei ^[b] and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

⁹ Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah who were royal officials, ¹⁰ but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

-Adonijah was a very ambitious young man of

about 35

he sees that his father King David is about to die soon

-and so he sees this as being an opportune time to take control

-to assert himself

-to put himself forward as nothing less than the next king

-first he will need a display to get people's attention

-Adonijah gets an idea

-when his brother Absalom took power from their father David he started with a chariots and fifty men ahead of him

-that will do it

-that will get everyone's attention

-and even if Dad sees Adonijah he won't do anything

-David is a bad dad

-he is not abusive but is inattentive and is exceptional poor at disciplining

-it's like what in today's standards is called permissive parenting

-whereby you allow your child to do whatever he or she wants to do with minimal or no discipline

-well in Adonijah we see the repercussions

-ok back to the story

-so Adonijah has announced his candidacy for king or rather has said I am the King

-I am large and in charge

-now he's gonna need more support

-you know other people with power in the kingdom

- first the army
- Joab
- this dude is a bad
- he is mean and powerful
- and with him on Adonijah's side the whole army would be with him and no one will dare oppose him
- next Adonijah needs religious approval
- that is to say he needs people that will back him that are godly because then it will look like God's on his side
- he found that support in Abiathar
- Abiathar has been a priest for years
- he was someone that David took under his wing to protect him from Saul
- it would have been nice if Adonijah could get Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest and Benaiah the warrior and David's personal guards but he will no doubt take care of them later
- now to make it official Adonijah is going to hold a huge celebration
- what better way to show yourself a man of God then by sacrificing
- but not sacrifice in Jerusalem
- he goes away from Jerusalem so that opposition would be minimal
- especially from David who was too frail to travel the distance
- Adonijah with his supporters including family celebrate
- of course those who did not support the young would-be king weren't there especially Solomon

- Solomon was more than likely absent because it would have been known to Adonijah as well many others in the kingdom that Solomon was to be the next king by God's choice
- Adonijah was not interested in doing God's will
- he knew that the main contender for the position was Solomon
- He was not interested in doing what God wanted which was making Solomon King
- he was not interested that God's choice, his father's choice, was Solomon
- Adonijah was interested in what he could gain and achieve
- he was interested in his own ambition
- he gave the appearance of faith but in reality he was out for his own success regardless of what God wanted
- His motives were govern by selfish ambition driven by pride
- and because he was proud he ignored the will of God

-Pride: is an inordinate and unreasonable self-esteem, attended with insolence and rude treatment of others

eg

-it is an attempt to appear in a superior light to what we are with anxiety to gain applause and distress and rage when slighted

eg

-Pride is universal, known in all cultures regardless

of belief or language or location
-it deceives the heart and hardens the mind, brings contention, destruction, strife and it is an abomination to the Lord
-Pride is the parent of discontent, ingratitude, presumption, extravagance and bigotry
Both Augustine and Aquinas held that pride was the very essence of sin

Lewis

pride gets no pleasure out of having something only having more of it than the next man

eg Adonijah

-Pride has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began

-As long as you are proud you cannot know God because a proud person cannot admit to something superior to himself

Pride blinds us to god's will and makes us focus on our selfish desires at the expense of others

-Adonijah could not accomplish God's will because his desire was for himself and his success

-the same is true for us in life whenever we desire success or accomplishment and ignore the strength and desire that God has for accomplishing his will we are lost

-Pride says I don't need your help

-pride says I need to do this on my own

-Pride says no dear I don't need to ask for direction I know exactly where I'm going

-I'm too embarrassed to have people over because the furniture is too old

-pride tells us not to be content with what we have or who we are

-pride says not to rely on God as a crutch

-pride tells us to prioritize what we can do and accomplish over and above what God can do or wants to accomplish through us

-in pride we will look to God as something on the side or something that we can trust in on Sundays

-like what Adonijah did when he was sacrificing

-we will marginalize God and others when we are led by pride to accomplish, to gain or achieve with the desire to be greater or to have more than others

-when we are led by pride a desire to accomplish God's will evaporates

¹¹ Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king without our lord David's knowing it? ¹² Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³ Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' ¹⁴ While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said."

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his

room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him. ¹⁶ Bathsheba bowed low and knelt before the king.

"What is it you want?" the king asked.

¹⁷ She said to him, "My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the LORD your God: 'Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.' ¹⁸ But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it. ¹⁹ He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant. ²⁰ My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹ Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals."

- Nathan knows the trouble that's brewing
- Nathan knows that without intervention any people that are faithful to David will be killed
- Adonijah would seek to kill any that oppose his rule starting with Solomon
- Nathan talks to Bathsheba giving her instruction in approaching the king
- Nathan asked Bathsheba because she would have been the favored wife
- Bathsheba approaches David with the utmost of

humility

- Bathsheba takes on the appearance of a humble servant
- with deepest humility she speak to David
- notice the contrast between Bathsheba and Adonijah
- she approaches David on her son's behalf bowing with humility whereas Adonijah ignores the King and presents himself with pride and arrogance
- in humility Bathsheba is relying on the promises of God for her son
- because the Humble like Bathsheba Rely on God's will whereas the proud like Adonijah ignore what God wants

-Humility is the right understanding of oneself in God's eyes

- The Christian calling by the Holy Spirit excludes all pride of race, religion, social status or person
- humility is marked by a desire for God to have power over one's life

Ex. Perpetua

- just as we would live and give for the glory of God
- here we see Bathsheba giving for the privilege and benefit of her son
- humility opens the door for the mercy of God
- a humble person looks to God often and relies on His promises**
- a humble person has in the forefront of his mind that he is nothing and has nothing except that which God has given to him

-humble people are compelled to draw near to God often in prayer and Bible study because they are desirous of emulating God of being like Jesus in their behavior

-humility brings comfort to the soul “like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert.”

-A humble person prioritizes the will of God and looks to excel in character, and integrity, for God’s glory over the pleasures and comforts in this life

-Because this humble person knows that there is no greater pleasure that living for what God wants

eg motherhood holds the essence of humility

-consider motherhood

Eg look at Bathsheba and the extent she is willing to humble herself for her son’s benefit and protection

-I wonder if Solomon ever thanked her

-mothers give, sacrifice and promote their children while remaining content to remain in the shadows as their children excel and often ignore what they have given

-eg sickness headache

-when I was a child it never occurred to me that mom had any other priority than myself

-it never occurred to me how much she sacrificed and gave of herself for my benefit

-I took it for granted that her selfless dedication and sacrifice was somehow her duty or that it was owed to me

-it was until I had kids that I realized my mom wasn’t obligated to love or help me it was all based

on her humble choice to do

Thank you

Recognizing the Symptoms of Pride

- Pride is spiritual cancer it eats up the very possibility of love or contentment or even common sense

1) Judgmental

We focus on the sins of others

2) Discontent

Nothing is ever good enough, coveting, always looking to one up the other person

3) Insecurity

Paranoia of what others are thinking

-always comparing oneself with others, charity is looked at with suspicion

4) Focused on the Superficial

Eg appearance Adonijah handsome

5) Ungrateful

-the help we get we feel owed thus don’t say thank-you or feel embarrassed to do so

6) Neglecting Daily Devotions

I can get along with out God, Ignoring them is a sign of pride it is a sign that Satan’s lies are penetrating our mind

7) You have not confessed your sin of Pride in a long time

If we are proud than confessing it would be near impossible because by its very nature pride will tell us that there is nothing to confess

-Do not minimize the sin of pride
it is one of the most prevalent and widespread sins
in our lives

-Lewis says *the utmost evil is pride. Unchastely,
anger, greed, drunkenness, are mere fleabites in
comparison: it was through pride that the devil
became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it
is the complete anti-God state mind.*

**Pride is the greatest barrier between fellowship
with one another and fellowship with God**

-if we are truly serious about confessing our pride
being rid of it, of drawing near to God of walking in
humility we need to do regular war with this sin

-first need to confess the pride of our hearts and ask
God to reveal where pride has infected us.

-But be prepared the infection more than like goes
incredibly deep

-but it is worth being rid of because humility brings
with it incredible peace and joy

-the results of pride will always be destruction and
turmoil

-and we see thing in the life of Adonijah
this takes place after Solomon becomes King

**1 Kings 2: ¹³ Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith,
went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother.
Bathsheba asked him, "Do you come
peacefully?"**

He answered, "Yes, peacefully." ¹⁴ Then he
added, "I have something to say to you."

"You may say it," she replied.

¹⁵ "As you know," he said, "the kingdom was

mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But
things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my
brother; for it has come to him from the LORD.

¹⁶ Now I have one request to make of you. Do not
refuse me."

"You may make it," she said.

¹⁷ So he continued, "Please ask King Solomon—
he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the
Shunammite as my wife."

¹⁸ "Very well," Bathsheba replied, "I will speak
to the king for you."

¹⁹ When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to
speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to
meet her, bowed down to her and sat down on
his throne. He had a throne brought for the
king's mother, and she sat down at his right
hand.

²⁰ "I have one small request to make of you,"
she said. "Do not refuse me."

The king replied, "Make it, my mother; I will
not refuse you."

²¹ So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite
be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah."

²² King Solomon answered his mother, "Why
do you request Abishag the Shunammite for
Adonijah? You might as well request the
kingdom for him—after all, he is my older
brother—yes, for him and for Abiathar the
priest and Joab son of Zeruiah!"

-it would seem that Solomon is overreacting to the
request

-why would he get so mad at Adonijah wanting to marry this woman

-The reason Solomon was mad was because this woman had been in David's company and it would have been a way of Adonijah attempting to retake the throne by insinuating she had physical relation with David

**²³ Then King Solomon swore by the LORD :
"May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request! ²⁴ And now, as surely as the LORD lives—he who has established me securely on the throne of my father David and has founded a dynasty for me as he promised—Adonijah shall be put to death today!" ²⁵ So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died.**

-Adonijah's end is not a surprise considering his pride put him in opposition with God

-But before we judge him consider that our pride also puts us in opposition to God