

IABC CONFERENCE - 2016

Topic: "The Disaster of Blowing Your Own Horn"

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Text: Daniel 4

Overview: We live in an ever-increasing world of religious and political figures who blow their own horn. What did Jesus and others have to say about this great vice? This workshop will examine Biblical examples of this disaster waiting to happen and how the genuine believer can avoid putting himself in the display window.

Introduction:

A. Old Testament Examples:

1. Eve - bought Satan's lie, "you will be like God," to become _____. (Gen. 3: 1-6)
2. Pharaoh - after 10 plagues he pursued the Israelites and _____. (Ex. 15: 9,10)
3. Saul - disobeyed Samuel and set up a monument in his own _____. (I Sam. 15:12)
4. Uzziah - after he became powerful, his pride led to his _____. (II Chron. 26:16)
5. Haman - said, "...Whom would the king desire to honor more than ___." (Esther 6:6)

B. New Testament Examples:

1. Pharisee - said, "...God, I thank you that I am not like other _____." (Luke 18:11)
2. Rulers - loved the approval of men rather than the approval of _____. (John 12:43)
3. Peter - insisted, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny ___!" (Mk. 14:31)
4. Unrighteous - professing to be wise, they became fools; _____. (Rom.1:22,30)
5. Herod - the Lord struck him because he did not give God the _____. (Acts 12:23)

C. Nebuchadnezzar's Conversion Story: From Pride To Humility - Daniel 4

1. I had it _____. v. 4
2. I had another _____. - vv. 5,10-17
3. My dream team _____. - vv. 6,7,18
4. We finally found _____. - vv. 8,9,18
5. My tree had to be _____. - vv. 19-26
6. I was urged to _____. - v. 27
7. I was a slow _____. - vv. 28,29
8. My head got even _____. - v. 30
9. I almost lost my _____. - vv. 31-32
10. God put me out to _____. - v. 33
11. It forced me to get my head on _____. - v. 34 (a)
12. I finally honored the Most High _____. - vv. 34(b),35
13. By God's grace my kingdom was _____. - v. 36
14. I now understand how God is opposed to the _____. - v. 37

D. What We Learn From The Life Of Jesus:

1. He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant; humbled _____. (Phil. 2: 1-11)
2. He continually taught his disciples that true greatness comes from _____. (Mt. 20:26)
3. His disciples learned that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the _____. (I Pet. 5:5)

"Guiding and Replacement Principles for Victory Over Pride" (Condensed from Pastor Larry Randall)

1. Reject all thoughts, plans and speculations that rise up in opposition to Christ, His person and work. (II Cor. 10:4,5)
2. Remember all you have or do is from God and others. (I Cor. 1:29-31; 4:7)
3. Develop gratefulness in place of self-sufficiency. (I Chron. 19:14,16; II Cor. 3:5; Eph. 2:9; Phil. 2:13; Deut. 6:10-12)
4. Intentionally choose to be a servant instead of being served. (I Kings 12:7; Phil. 2:3-8; Mt. 20:25-28; John 13:3-17)
5. Humble yourself before God, and acknowledge your dependency. (Jer. 17:5-8; Lk. 1:52; 18:14; John 15:5; James 4:10)
6. Replace self-indulgence with self-control. (Luke: 9:24,25; Titus 2:12)
7. Keep a sober view of yourself - not thinking yourself to be something you are not. (Rom. 12:3; I Cor. 4:7; II Cor. 3:5)
8. Be quick to give sincere praise to others' achievements and character qualities. (Rom. 14:19; I Cor. 8:1; Phil. 4:8)
9. Specifically ask God to humble you; be prepared not to waver as God gives it to you. (Ex. 10:3; Ez. 8:21; James 1:5,6)
10. Make every effort to do good works without drawing attention to yourself. (Mt. 6:4,18)
11. Reckon, consider yourself dead to sin. (Rom. 6; Gal. 2:20)
12. Determine to apply truth to your life. As you gain insights, share as a humble, growing learner. (Gal. 6:3; Jas. 1:25)
13. Take on tasks others do not desire to do, and choose to do them with a servant attitude. (Mt. 23:11,12; Col. 3:23,24)
14. Make eternal rewards the focus, not the fleeting praise of men. (Heb. 11:25,26; Num. 12:3)
15. Reach out to widows and orphans; thereby practicing pure religion. (Jas. 1:27)
16. Prayerfully ask God to enable you to see as He sees. (I Sam. 16:7; Heb. 4:12; Ps. 119:18, 139:23,24)
17. Be accountable to others regarding your Christian walk. (Jas. 5:16; Prov. 5:12,13)
18. Keep a journal of gratefulness, thanking God for His blessings and mercy. (I Thess. 5:18; Eph. 5:20; I Cor. 4:7)
19. In all your ways and all your days make Christ known. (Prov. 3:5, 11:30)
20. Be determined to maintain a clear conscience with God and others. (I Tim. 1:5,19; Titus 1:15; Acts 24:16; 2 Cor. 4:2)
21. Demonstrate and cultivate genuine love. (I Cor. 13:4-8; John 15:13)
22. Replace self-glory with regarding others as more important than yourself. (Rom. 15:2; Phil. 2:3; I Pet. 5:5)
23. Replace an attitude of greed and grasping with one of generosity. (I Tim. 6:17-19)
24. Intentionally develop relationships with wise and humble people. (Prov. 11:2, 13:20; Jer. 17:5-8; Rom. 12:16)
25. Revisit the cross regularly and God will humble you in the process. (Mt. 26-28; Lk. 22-24; Phil. 2:3-11)

Application:

1. What stands out to you from the Old Testament examples? New Testament examples?
2. What lessons from Nebuchadnezzar's testimony implore you to avoid "having to learn the hard way"?
3. Recount an experience where God graciously "trimmed you down to size" and the lessons you learned.
4. Is there a proper use of pride? Give appropriate examples such as found in Proverbs 13:18,19; 27:2; Rom. 12:10
5. Memorize and meditate on I Peter 5:5,6

"We cannot over-estimate the lesson God brought this supreme monarch of Gentile times to accept and heartily to proclaim. It is the key to all history, as well to that of the "Times of the Gentiles." It is the key to the events which are daily reported to us from all parts of the world of today. This is the political message for earthly kings and rulers until Christ shall come: 'The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.' Every ruler should acknowledge this humbly and heartily, as did our Lincoln, as did Queen Victoria; the haughtiest is compelled to acknowledge it however unwillingly, as did Napoleon." - - W. C. Stevens