

groups.

— Notes | June 8, 2025

Life Changing Pictures & Parables | Get Over Pride and Prosper

Jesus told many parables, which served to define and instruct. In John 10, He shared a parable called “The Good Shepherd and His Sheep.” Sandwiched between the parable and the truth found within is both a warning and a promise. *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* Jesus’ promise to give us life to the full is life-changing—a promise we all desire to achieve. However, to fully embrace the promise, we must also recognize the warning.

In the life of a believer, the thief will steal our peace, kill our integrity, and destroy our relationships. The strategy is subtle—take our eye off Jesus and place it on anything else, even ourselves. The sin of pride is one way we fall into the thief’s trap. This isn’t the healthy pride of a job well done, accomplishing a hard-reached goal, or the pride we have for our loved ones. Sinful pride is self-serving, doing life *my way*, flaunting *my* possessions, accomplishments, greatness, or superiority in expectation of affirmation and applause.

But God has more for us. Remember the promise? Jesus came to give us life to the full! So, our challenge: Get Over Pride and Prosper! READY?!!!

Key Scripture | Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Related Scriptures

— Psalm 1, Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 3:34, Luke 14:7-11, Luke 18, John 10:1-18, 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 2:3-4, James 4:6,10,13-16

Icebreakers:

— Q: Share something you are hilariously bad at, despite your best efforts.

Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Jesus came to give us life to the full.

Q: What does a full life look like according to Jesus?

Q: Read John 10:1-18. Jesus declares Himself as the Good Shepherd. How does the Shepherd protect the sheep?

Q: How does knowing the Shepherd and listening to His voice keep us from falling into the destructive trap of the thief?

II. Pride is Deceiving and Destructive

Q: Why is pride deceiving? What lie does it tell to steal your peace?

Q: How does self-righteousness reveal pride? What is a possible scenario that might lead you to lose your integrity?

Q: Pride thinks more of self and less of God and others. We can find ourselves in the wrong seat with God and the wrong seat with others. How can this destroy relationships?

III. Take a step back and take a lesser seat.

Q: Read Ephesians 2:8-9. In your own words, what does this mean?

Q: Pride encourages selfishness and sin. In contrast, humility shifts our thoughts away from ourselves and places them on others. Share a practical scenario where each of these could apply.

Q: How does intentionally owning our own destructive pride and allowing God to search our hearts and grant us awareness of selfishness and pride serve to prosper us?

Get Practical

Sinful pride is deceitful and destructive. Pray Psalm 139:23-24 and ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal any place in your heart that is harboring pride. Every morning, surrender anything the Lord reveals to you at the Cross. Ask Him to empty you of pride and fill you with His Spirit and all the fruit of Galatians 5: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. If you need prayer, reach out to your small group leader or text prayer to 37748 so we can pray with you.