

PRIDE IS DANGEROUS

Acts 12:21-23

Introduction: Everybody likes to be complimented, bragged on and everybody also does the same to others. Face it, we like to be recognized by others. Pastors really have to struggle in this area for people are always complimenting the pastor on his sermons or his pulpit mannerisms and such. It's very easy to "get a big head" being a leader. Anytime a person begins to be "proud" of him/herself it can be dangerous for it is ONLY God who should be getting the recognition. In the text of today that lesson is learned in the hardest way as Herod, the king was complimented, bragged on by those around him by his regal attire and appearance. They further bragged on him when he gave a speech and told him that he had the voice of a god rather than an ordinary man. Herod felt much pride in the compliments of the people however God wasn't impressed and instantly had an angel strike Herod with a disease that ended his life very quickly. Herod was filled with pride and had failed to give God any credit or honor whatsoever. Pride can be very bad.

I. HEROD'S SIN OF PRIDE

1. Herod seemed to be a "gifted" speaker but he never gave God any credit, honor or glory for being able to do what he did.
 - It is "natural" for a person to pride him/herself instead of giving God the credit/glory.
 - When women are complimented about their appearance, how many in turn give God the credit?
 - When men are complimented for their accomplishments, how many in turn give God the credit?
 - People want to be recognized for their own efforts, energies, skills, wealth, and such.
2. Herod failed to recognize God's goodness.
 - God is the *"...author of every good and perfect gift..."*
 - Whatever any body possess they should join Paul and say *"...He that hath wrought us for this self-same thing is God..." (2 Corinthians 5:5)*
 - Any time WE withhold recognizing God in our accomplishments, we are denying that what we are able to do is because of God and assume to take all the credit and honor that is due God alone.
3. Failure to give God the honor and credit is to take His place.
 - If we take to ourselves the honor and glory that is due to God, we are putting ourselves in His place and become "little gods."
 - God will not share His honor and glory due Him with others.

II. HEROD'S PUNISHMENT FOR HIS PRIDE

1. Pride, above all things, provokes God's jealousy and angels and the whole creation stand ready to defend God's greatness and majesty.
2. God has punished PRIDE many times.
 - *Isaiah 10:12*
 - People taking credit for things which God did.

- **Daniel 4:30-33**

- People who think only of themselves and everything they do is for themselves when God has been involved all along.

- **Isaiah 34:3-7**

- People who are self-complacent, satisfied, content with what they have, thinking it is all because of themselves that they have what they have or are who they are, when it has been God who has given and been the cause for all that they are and have.

3. God will punish pride wherever and whenever it appears.

- **Habakkuk 2:4**

- Whenever pride is a habit, God sees that as being hypocritical.

- **James 4:6**

- God is always ready to forgive, to give grace to those who are humble, He will most assuredly resist and bring down the proud.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every one needs to watch carefully the intent and thoughts of their heart.

- God looks at the heart and searches it and sees every thought of it. (**Ezekiel 11:5**)

- God will call to judgment all that is prideful and sinful in our heart. (**1 Corinthians 4:5**)

- Everyone of us needs to humble ourselves before God and to pray that the thoughts of our hearts may be forgiven us. (**Acts 8:22**)

2. Everyone needs to be careful using flattering words.

- We flatter, brag, pat each other on the back because it is natural, but it is offensive to God for it is leaving Him out of our loves as well as those we flatter. God gets no credit.

- Flattery either given or received can cause the soul to be lifted up in pride.

- Flattery is something which few can handle wisely and properly because almost always God is left out.

3. Pride is dangerous, let's be careful and keep it put aside.