**Seeking Him: 2. Humility – Coming To God On His Terms**

**Key Verse: Luke 14:11 Texts: Isaiah 57:15; 2 Chronicles 12: 1-7; 14: 2-7; 16: 10, 12-13 Isaiah 6: 1-7**

**Introduction:**

**Luke 14:11** – **‘For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’**

1. **God’s view of Pride**

Pride is the opposite of humility and it is the most formidable roadblock to revival that there is. Pride keeps us at a distance from God.

**Psalm 10:4**

**Psalm 31:23**

**Proverbs 8:13**

**Proverbs 11:2**

**Proverbs 16:18**

**Proverbs 29:23**

**Obadiah 3**

**Matthew 23:12**

**James 4:6**

As strongly as God is repulsed by pride, He is drawn to humility:

**Isaiah 57:15**

God chooses to exalt the humble. He promises to live in intimate fellowship with them. So those with humble hearts are candidates for revival.

1. **The example of two kings**

The way that we respond to Him in moments of conviction reveals the true condition of our heart.

We want to follow the illustration of this in two Old Testament Kings – Rehoboam and Asa.

Rehoboam inherited the throne of Israel from his father, Solomon. In the midst of his reign, Rehoboam encountered trouble: **2 Chronicles 12:1-5**

Rehoboam’s heart was filled with sin and self. He had led the nation far away from God. The Lord raised up an enemy to punish Rehoboam for his rebellion. God wanted Rehoboam to understand why the nation was under siege, so He sent a prophet to explain.

**2 Chronicles 12:6-7**

Pharaoh Shishak invaded Judah around 926 B.C., plundering Jerusalem and forcing Rehoboam to pay tribute money. But Jerusalem was not destroyed, and Judah retained its nationhood.

So what is evident here is that when Rehoboam and the leaders responded in humility when they were confronted with their sin, God delivered them. And so the whole nation benefitted from Rehoboam’s humility.

Now let’s look at Rehoboam’s grandson, Asa.

The Bible records many positive things about Asa and his leadership. He began his reign by taking some major steps of obedience: **2 Chronicles 14:2-7**

But even under Asa’s godly leadership, trouble eventually came to his kingdom In his time of trouble, Asa trusted in the Lord. He cried out to God and, by His hand routed the enemy. God honoured Asa for his faith and affirmed His blessing on his leadership. Asa responded in humility, and the spiritual resolve of the nation was deepened. This is recorded in **2 Chronicles 15**.

Several years later another enemy approached, and this time Asa responded differently. Rather than trusting in the Lord, Asa turned to the nearby Syrians for help. God then sent a prophet to rebuke him for this folly. **2 Chronicles 16:7-9**

Now notice, even though Asa had erred greatly, he was given the opportunity to humble himself, acknowledge his wrongdoing, and receive God’s mercy. **2 Chronicles 16:10 2 Chronicles 16:12-13** Asa’s pride affected his responses and his leadership.

**Rehoboam started his reign in pride and rebellion, but ended in humility.**

**Asa started in humility and ended in pride and rebellion.**

**Both men sinned. Both were confronted with their sin. One accepted this rebuke as God’s way of cleansing; the other received it as an assault on his reputation.**

**Humility restored Rehoboam; pride ruined Asa.**

1. **The necessity of humility**

Humility has never been popular in the eyes of the world.

However, in the kingdom of God, and especially in the process of revival, humility and brokenness are essential.

Humbling ourselves is the first step we take toward God.

But how do we do this?

**Isaiah 6:1-7**

**First, Isaiah saw the Lord in His awesome holiness and majesty.**

**Second, Isaiah recognized the depth of his own sinfulness and was overwhelmed.**

**Third, Isaiah confessed his sin.**

**Fourth, God forgave and cleansed Isaiah.**

**C. S. Lewis once wrote: “If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud …. If you think you’re not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”**

The exercise to make this personal really comes from a willingness to follow the statement of Psalm 51:17. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

* **Agree with Him about each evidence of pride that He has shown you.**
* **Ask His forgiveness for your pride, realizing that pride is really an attempt to be ‘as God’.**
* **Ask Him to continue to reveal anything that indicates pride in your life.**
* **Ask Him to show you any practical steps you could take to humble yourself before Him and others.**