

THE WEEK OF
January 25th, 2010



Jesus Vs. Defiant Arrogance
Part 2
1 Corinthians 1:26-31

"God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful."

-1 Corinthians 1:27

Last week we started the latest chapter in our series "Jesus Vs." with, "Jesus vs. Defiant Arrogance" – an examination of pride in all its forms. In that first installment we looked at the pride that produces a boastful heart – one that thinks too highly of itself. This week we shift our focus to the opposite extreme of self-centeredness – a heart self-focused in a negative way. Both extremes are pride and both will hinder our growth in the Lord.

A few years ago while visiting a church in San Francisco I heard a message on low self-esteem. The pastor reminisced about his early days in ministry. He chose to serve in the video ministry because he wasn't comfortable being out in front of people. He was extremely shy and felt more at home in this behind-the-scenes role. His Pastor, on the other hand, recognized that he was called to serve as a teaching pastor and to be in front of people. Although deep in his heart this man knew it was true, he chose to stay put, convincing himself that his "inhibitions" precluded him. Then, one day, his pastor confronted him telling him that he was one of the most prideful people he knew. This surprised the man who asked his pastor "why?" He responded with a synopsis of what "negative" pride had produced in his life: fear of rejection, disapproval, and failure. All of these, forms of pride that were getting in the way of the service God had called him to do. He received his pastor's rebuke and admonition in humility and now serves as a teaching pastor – and I will affirm, it's exactly what God called him to do.

Be encouraged this week. Don't let Satan convince you that you're less than what God made you. Sure, none of us are worthy of heaven apart from Jesus's intervention. None of us are great men, but God will use us greatly if we trust and believe in Him.

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Mon: God doesn't pick superstars: "God chose things the world considers foolish" 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Tue: Watch for attacks: "Be self-controlled and alert" 1 Peter 5:8

Wed: Respect God's Authority: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." 1 John 5:3-5

Thu: Father knows best: "All Scripture is given by God..." 2 Tim 3:16

Fri: We need to know our place: "the LORD alone will be exalted in that day" Isaiah 2:17

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. Is there something you're called to do for God's glory, but you're afraid to do it? Ask for your Bible Café brothers to pray for you regarding this.

2. What is your biggest weakness? How are you going to let God use this for His glory?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):