

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 5 Study Notes – Encounter With Pride

I actually really loved this Chapter – it truly gave me the peace of a grateful heart having suffered a lot with sorrow over my lifetime. Suffering and sorrow etched into us, places a barrier preventing pride to settle in. I was sort of giggling after reading this chapter thinking... Either the enemy can put me to shame via self or I surrender to Jesus and be looked upon in a shameful way by those who do not follow Him. I guess then, shame can be a really good thing when we seek Jesus and Jesus alone to cover us – no longer trying to sew fig leaves to cover ourselves and hide our truth from The Truth – Jesus.

Many of us know first hand how pride always comes before we fall... getting to big for our britches at times, then the Lord sets us down to preserve us from being led away from Him on a different path to righteousness. Sometimes it is a quiet reset and sometimes loud and out in the open so He can use us as a living example to what is and is not permitted in His Kingdom family. I've suffered both... and I am sure you have too. Sometimes we focus so much on the threats in this world and what the enemy brings at us we forget... Jesus came to save us from ourselves. He died for those in the World to live, not to save them from the World, which is a part of His redemptive plan, but not the purpose of it, if that makes sense? So today, I am asking us all – who do we need saving from the most? The enemy or ourselves? I know this is the meat of Word and must be spiritually discerned and may possibly be confusing to some people.

Pride is the cause of Lucifer's fall... that is how dangerous it can be to overlook any sort of pride in our lives, hearts and minds.

Pride equals rebellion because when we are in a prideful state, we will challenge the Lord – questioning Him, blame Him, neglect to revere Him and worst of all – see ourselves equal to Him, just as good, just as all knowing and full of power and strength to command. Doing anything in our own power will get us sifted by Satan himself... and it should, because we need it or we too will be like him, instead of Jesus, puffed up on pride headed straight for a fall. Lucifer fell because he wanted to be God in his own life, instead of surrendering to the oversight of our Creator. Sometimes, we too want to lord over our own lives – wanting our own way and throw fits when things don't go as we planned. So thankfully, our Lord is purifying us from all of self/rebellion and pride.

The Father corrects us as His children and we eventually surrender and learn to love His guidance. Those with an orphan mindset, quickly fall into self-pity and shame – which that is pride that grounds itself in rebellion. We are either with the Lord or against Him by our thoughts and actions. Scary isn't it, to consider we have that sort of effect on our eternal dwelling place.

I just find all this so encouraging and I hope you do as well, because it gives such meaningful answers to the trials and tribulations we go through and how it is Jesus's hands upon us, working all things together for our own good because He loves us. Nothing which comes upon us is to harm us, but rather to perfect us and mold us into His image while delivering us from our own image. It is unreal to me how pride can manifest in such sneaky un-seemingly ways in our lives and unless Jesus opens our eyes to the truth of it, we are definitely blinded by our own pride. Thank You Lord.

Today's Scriptures:

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the lowly is wisdom.

Considering we are truly living in the end of days – the very last place we want to find ourselves in is inside any sort of rebellion. Rebellion opposes God in thoughts and actions and is quite often covered over in pity, yet often overlooked. Jesus promises to deliver us from self, exposing and purifying from within us anything in opposition to Himself. We can be smart, having all the Earthly knowledge in the World and still fall... it is only those who surrender fully to Him with a humble heart that contain His wisdom, that surpasses any human understanding.

Verse 21 says... The seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Each one of us is a seed – a seed that needs spiritual water in order to grow. The Kingdom of God is within you... planted like a seed. Whatever we feed grows. So we need to keep that in mind when we choose what to hear and see. I speak often about wells – because many drink from many wells, only occasionally drinking from the only well that produces what God desires within us. And these people are full of mixture, lukewarm, often living in confusion, running to and fro. Something that is a guarantee, anyone who is marked for righteousness, they shall be delivered from chasing things that are not permitted to enter into the Lord's Kingdom.

Mathew 12:30

He that is not with me, is against me...

I feel like we could take a whole broadcast to discuss this topic because it is so very sobering. Jesus wants us to get our eyes off of everyone else and how they are living their lives and stop being fruit inspectors outside of inspecting ourselves. You know who is actually delivered in truth? Those who go to Him void of preconceived notions of their own holiness and ask Him honestly and humbly... Am I with You Lord Jesus or do I still have elements within me that are against You? This question is so personal and intimate and fragile, I am sort of at a loss of words to articulate how important it is we see ourselves in truth concerning this matter. May we all hold a candle up to our hearts today, asking Jesus to show us in truth if we are for or against Him and may He help us overcome self in these areas.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.

Without a doubt each one of us here have made big plans and small plans, only to have the rug ripped out from under our feet when the Lord steps in to orchestrate our steps... Many of us have found ourselves face down on the floor, embarrassed and humbled because must learn to trust the Lord with all our hearts, in place of leaning on our own understanding. Have we made peace with Jesus to the point we are okay with His will

being done if it doesn't match ours? He requires we submit all our ways/will unto Him in order our path be made straight. Straight into His Kingdom, that is... where peace, joy, love, comfort resides. It is only when we get off His path and onto our own we struggle the most. Deliverance requires surrender on our part. Jesus does the delivering, but we must choose to work with Him instead of against Him.

- *Before I read today's chapter – I just want to make sure we all are on the same page knowing, these labeled people in our book like "Craven fear," "Sorrow," "Suffering" etc... are Much Afraid's OWN THOUGHTS, conversations she has in her own mind – whispers from the enemy or even words from Jesus, written for us to comprehend with a word picture the influence our own thoughts have in our lives. Today we will be introduced to the suggestive voice of "Pride."*

Today's Study Questions:

Are you afraid of sorrow and suffering, but now can you see how the Lord permits it in order we surrender to Him in a most precious way?

Like I've shared before... I am afraid of both and yet, it seems each time I surrender to Him a little more that fear is leaving by His handiwork, not my own. I am starting to see all the more how instant I can be in my thinking of desiring comfort in today, overlooking this is not a sprint but a marathon. Jesus is focused on where we end up eternally, over that we just feel okay today. It's a process and may we continue to let Him do a quick work by placing ourselves into His capable hands and trust Him by our willful obedience.

Why do you think there are times in our lives that when we are struggling no one is permitted to come to our rescue?

This is an easy one... It's a divine appointment in our lives when this happens, in order we learn to lean upon Him first, to go to Him in our time of need first, to rely on Him for comfort and love and peace. He allows us to need only Him, to assist us to place Him and Him alone upon the thrones of our hearts.

Do you see how inter-connected pride, rebellion and self-pity are connected?

Honestly, I never saw this connection so clearly like I did this time reading Chapter 5. Until the Lord revealed this to me, I had no idea self-pity was connected to rebellion and when we choose it, we are not with Jesus but against Him and His desires for our lives. Crying and complaining about where you are in life, while refusing to implement changes is a form of rebellion that is deeply hidden within an ungrateful heart. After now seeing this, I don't think I will complain ever again or if I do... I will most certainly be much more humble, crying out to Him to set my path straight and forgive me for trying to dictate all aspects of my life.

How does pride prevent us from dwelling in the Kingdom of Love?

Simply put... pride equals love of self and prevents us loving Jesus or others more than we love ourselves. The reason this is so dangerous is... every thought or action gets filtered through "self" – How will we personally benefit from what we are going to do or what we may say – even when cloaked by assisting others, we will consider "self" first. Jesus tells us to lay down our lives for others, just as He did – meaning we no longer consider what benefits may come our way in assisting someone else.

Is it worth the cost for you for Jesus to deliver you from leaning upon our own understanding in order your path be made straight?

Truthfully, I am not so sure any one of us would have chosen this path had we known all the heartache involved in dying to self-daily, consistently no matter the cost. Just as a newborn baby doesn't comprehend all they will face over the course of a lifetime, we too are somewhat short-sighted when we are spiritually reborn, which is probably a good thing or we might hesitate or even turn back, away from Jesus. We are all in a process, growing and forward is the only way out of this hole, as we follow in Jesus's footsteps, He is leading the way. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life... that very few find on this twisted path called life in the World.

Are you willing to let go of your own will for your life in place for His will to be done?

This is a question not answered with words, but can only be truly answered by our own actions. We may say we desire His will, or even walking it out and yet... Our hearts can be miles away from Him, so the only person we are really deceiving is ourselves. Our walk must match our talk for authenticity instead of hypocrisy. If we only surrender when things are good – we are not surrendering at all. Everything of worthiness in His Kingdom is proven by fire. Especially us. There have been countless times I have been on a crooked path of self-will, only to be so beaten up and bruised, I longed for His will in ways I never would have expected, in order I surrender to Him. For some this takes repeated occurrences to finally give your all unto Him, depending on how much rebellion still lies within. Rest assured, Jesus shall have His way – the timing of it all, depends on us.

Today's Pearl

In 1965, Paul Harvey broadcasted “If I Were the Devil.” It is really amazing to realize over 47 years ago how accurately he “prophesied” the future spiritual condition of the United States. Many of his statements were considered ridiculously outlandish at that time in history. Yet, we find ourselves today...

PAUL HARVEY'S 'IF I WERE THE DEVIL' TRANSCRIPT

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

“To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

“And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

“If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

“Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

“If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

Paul Harvey, good day.”