

Problems – Study 6

Thank you for joining me once again for “It’s a Good Life.” We’ve been studying through a subject and that subject is problems. Many of us don’t like to face the area when we look at the subject of problems, but, you know, that’s one was that we solve problems is by taking a look at them. We don’t want to be like that old saying sticking your head in the sand like an ostrich, hiding from it, but we need to realize that there are real problems that come into our lives.

And along with those problems there are symptoms. In order to solve the problems, we need to solve the symptoms that are there, and as we look at those symptoms, we sometimes realize that some of these things we bring on ourselves, and we just need to work on that and to handle that as God gives us the grace to take care of those things that come into our lives that shouldn’t be there.

Well, today, we want to look at the symptom of pride, and I Corinthians 1:31 says, *He who boasts let him boast in the Lord.* And in that same chapter in verse 29, it says, *That no flesh should boast in his presence,* that is, in God’s presence.

The boaster is the one who praises himself and brags about what he’s done. You know, the Bible teaches us that we’re not saved by works of righteousness which we’ve done, Titus 3:5 says that, but we are saved because of the work which Christ has done on the cross. Therefore, since salvation is not by human effort or works, it’s unthinkable and unfitting for a saved person to boast. Ephesians 2:9 says, *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

We can also look at Romans 4:2 where it says, *For if Abraham were justified by works, he*

hath whereof to glory; but not before God. Now, the expression “to glory” in that verse means to boast. We have no reason to boast and no right to boast about salvation. And since salvation is by faith and not by works, boasting is wrong.

The person who boasts has faith in himself, and the person who is saved has faith in Christ alone. Being saved is a very humbling experience. We know what our Savior went through as He walked on this Earth and as He gave His life for us. He shed His blood that you and I could be saved.

Romans 3:27-28: *²⁷Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay; but by the law of faith. ²⁸Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law... in other words, without the deeds of works, without doing things.*

Pride... in the middle of that word “pride” you see the “I.” Well, that “I” has kept millions of people from coming to the Savior. And I’d like for us to look at a parable in Luke 18. We’ll begin reading there at verse 9. It says: *⁹And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man... that’s the*

publican... *went down to his house justified rather than the other...* "the other" here being the Pharisee... *for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Well, in those verses, Luke 18:9-14, I see a few things there that are brought to my attention. In verse 9, the Lord spoke this parable to those who trusted in themselves. And in verses 11 and 12, it talks about the Pharisee who boasted and bragged about his accomplishments. Verse 13 tells us that the publican humbled himself before God, and verse 14 says the Pharisee thought he was saved. He thought he was saved because he did good things. And also in verse 14, the publican really was saved, according to that verse.

Before a person can really be saved, he or she must admit being a sinner. He or she must humble themselves before God and not depend upon good works in order to go to Heaven. Once again in verse 13 of Luke 18, it talks about that.

Well, can boasting be good and bad? Is it always wrong to boast? Well, the Lord wants us to boast and to brag. You say, "Well, you just said it was wrong." Well, let me finish here. It says here that He wants us to boast and brag, but, however, He does not want us to boast and brag about ourselves. Second Corinthians 10:17 says, *But he that glorieth...* and that means boast... *let him glory in the Lord.* Now, the word "glory" here in II Corinthians 10:17 in the King James Bible can be translated "boast." *Let him glory... or boast... in the Lord.*

In I Corinthians 1:29, it says that no flesh should glory in His presence. In I Corinthians 1:31... we read this in the beginning of our study today.... it says, *That, according as it is*

written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. So, boasting and bragging in and of itself is not sinful, that is, if we boast and brag about our Lord.

And then boasting and bragging quickly become sinful when we boast in men or in ourselves. In I Corinthians 3:21, it says, *Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours.*

When God created us, He wanted us to be proud creatures... proud of Him. And there's nothing wrong with pride, but we must make sure that pride is directed not towards self but toward God. We need to develop Godward pride.

Are you proud of the living God, the Creator of the universe? Well, the following thing that we're going to look at now will help us to see the difference between boasting in ourselves, this is sinful boasting, and boasting in the Lord. And boasting in the Lord would be righteous boasting.

Rightful boasting is this. Instead of wanting attention for myself, I want God to have all the attention, and instead of showing myself off, I want to show God off, and instead of telling everyone about me, I want to tell everyone about Christ and all His accomplishments. And instead of seeking the preeminence in everything, I want Christ to have preeminence. In III John 1:9, it says, *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.* He didn't want to receive them because he was afraid they would take away from his standing or his ability to boast in what he'd done.

Colossians 1:18: *And he is the head of the body... that's Christ... And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning,*

the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. Now, there's nothing wrong with being pleased with what we do, but it's another thing that we boast in the things that we do.

We need to give Christ all the glory, and instead of having everything revolve around me, I want everything to revolve around Christ. That should be our attitude. And just as in our solar system everything revolves around the sun, so spiritually, everything should revolve around the Son of God. He is the center.

Well, boasting which God hates is this. In Jeremiah 9:23, it says, *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches.* We see the proud here, and as we read that verse, it talks about boasting in mind power. The wise man says, "Look how much I know. No one needs to tell me how to live my life." I hear that many times as I share the Gospel with individuals. "I don't want anybody telling me how to live." This is the attitude that many people I encounter say and feel.

Also boasting in muscle power that verse tells us in Jeremiah 9:23. The mighty man says, "Look at what I have done. Look at what I've accomplished. I don't need anyone to help me. I can't do it myself." Well, that's certainly true in some areas, but remember, God is the One who gives us the breath of life. God is the One who enables us to have the fit bodies in order to do the things we need to do on this Earth. When we take that glory away from Him and we put the glory on ourselves, saying, "Look at me. I can do everything by myself. I don't need God." Well, that's muscle power and God says that's wrong that we boast in that.

And then boasting in money power. That verse in Jeremiah 9:23 also talks about the rich man. The rich man says, "Look at all that belongs to me. Look at all that I have. I'm rich and in need of nothing." Well, I've got news for you. If you're rich, God has given you the ability and, once again, the opportunity to gain those riches. You say, "Well, I've worked for everything that I've got in my life." Well, that's good. You worked and God has given you the ability to work and He's helped you. He's given you what you need in order to sustain your life in this world, and you need to be giving Him all the glory.

Well, there's many things that can be said about the wise person, the strong person, and the rich person, and we need to understand that we're nothing without God.

What's the conclusion? Boasting or praise? The Hebrew word for boasting is *halal*. This word is also the Hebrew word for praising. We can compare the Hebrew expression *halleluiah*, which means "praise the Lord." Whenever we praise ourselves, we're boasting. When we say, "Look at how great I am," we're boasting. When we say, "Look how great God is," we're praising God. Boasting in self is sin. Boasting in God, that's praise and is our duty as His creation.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Have you trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? One way that you can stop boasting in yourself and you can start boasting in the Lord is to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Psalm 33:1 says, *Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.*

And in Psalm 147, *Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.*

Won't you trust Him today? Realize you're a sinner and you can't save yourself. You need Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven. He died on the cross for you, He was buried, and He was resurrected on that third day. He shed His blood that you could go to Heaven. If you'll trust Him today, "Say, Lord, I know I'm a sinner. I can't save myself. I'm trusting You, God, to take me to Heaven. Come into my heart and save me today."

And if you are saved, you need to let Jesus Christ lead and guide you in your life and be the center of your life and let other people know that you're saved and you're on your way to Heaven.

In Jesus' name, I pray for you today. May you know Jesus. May you serve Him.

You've been listening to It's a Good Life Radio. To request a free transcript of this program, you can write to Dr. Woodard at 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

Visit our Websites, www.LRWM.org or www.ItsAGoodLifeRadio.com. We know you will be blessed.

This program is listener-supported. Support your local church first. Any gifts to support this ministry can be sent to:

LRWM
497 Judith Avenue
Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.