



## **“The Big Test” (John 3:22-36)**

In Religion the good are in and the bad are out. In the Gospel the humble are in and the proud are out. To become a Christian all you need is need and nothing will keep you from seeing and admitting your need like pride (Ps.36:2). Pride is at the root of all of our sins. In fact the more pride you have the less you can see in yourself and the more you dislike it in others. The Big Test of whether you truly know God and are walking in vital union and communion with God is HUMILITY (James 4:6).

**PRIDE** is a self-centeredness and a self-absorption driven by a need to prove to yourself and others that you matter. Self-centeredness makes everything else a means to an end.

**SIGNS:** Secret Enemy, Fault Finder, Harsh Spirit, Pretense, Easily Offended, Attitude of Entitlement, Hungry for Attention, and Insensitive to Others.

## **HUMBLE PEOPLE...**

- 1) Don't compare or compete with others.** vv22-26; 2Cor.10:12; 2Cor.4:3-4; John 5:44
- 2) Know that every good and perfect gift is from God.** James 1:17; 1Cor4:7
- 3) Have an accurate view of their gifts and limitations.** V28; Rom.12:3

- 4) Rejoice greatly in the privilege of using their God given gifts to point people to Christ (Ministry/Mission).** v29; Acts 20:35; 1Pet.4:10-11

- 5) Are becoming more and more like Christ and are more concerned about what people think of Christ than themselves.** vv30-33; Gal.5:22-23, 6:14

- 6) Are captivated by the beauty and glory of who Christ is and what He came to do.** vv34-36; Phil.2:5-8

## **Growing Notes**

- 1) Read introduction to sermon. How does pride keep us from becoming a Christian and is the root of all of our sins (Ps.36:2)? Why do you think that the Big Test of whether you truly know God is HUMILITY (James 4:6)?
- 2) Read John 3:22-36. How does this text characterize John the Baptist? Is he a proud man or a humble man? Explain.
- 3) How is comparing and competing with others not only pride but demeaning to the Creator who made us (v26; 2Cor10:12)? What happens when we forget that every good and perfect gift comes from God (v27; James 1:17; 1Cor4:7)?
- 4) Why is it important to have an accurate view of your gifts and limitations (v28; Rom.12:3)? How is humility characterized by rejoicing greatly in the privilege of using your gifts to point people to Christ (v29; Acts 20:35; 1Pet.4:10-11)?
- 5) Humble people are Christ like and Christ exalting (vv30-33; Gal.5:22-23, 6:14). Explain. Why do you think the cure to pride is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less because you are captivated by Christ's glory (vv34-36; Phil.2:5-8)? Pray.