

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Read Luke 14:11, Daniel 4

Sermon Questions: This will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- What is the reason we are talking about pride and humility once again?
- What does it mean to exalt self?
- Do you believe that people have a hard time seeing pride in their own lives? If you do, how should this reality impact you?
- We gave thirty different signs someone was seeking to exalt themselves. What are some that stood out to you?
- What were the three reasons we gave that Jesus had such a problem with people seeking to exalt themselves? Can you think of any more reasons?
- What are some lies you have to believe if you are going to seek to exalt yourself?

Sermon Outline: A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.

1. What does it mean to exalt yourself?
 - a. What is not
 - b. What it is
2. What are some signs people are seeking to exalt themselves in a sinful way?
 - a. 10 from Luke 14
 - b. 20 from the rest of the Bible
3. Why is it sinful and foolish to exalt self?
 - a. It doesn't work
 - i. It accomplishes the opposite of what you are trying to accomplish
 - ii. You are seeking to be honored by doing something that brings you shame before God
 - b. It is based on lies
 - i. Lies about God
 - ii. Lies about yourself
 - iii. Lies about other people
 - iv. Lies about how being honored actually works
 - c. It has devastating consequences
 - i. This is a world destroying sin
 - ii. This is a devilish sin
 - iii. This is a sin producing sin
 - iv. This is a growth stopping sin
 - v. This is a joy stealing sin

Summary Statement: This is a VERY short explanation to help you get the point of the message.

I want to help you understand what it means to exalt self, identify ways in which you may seek to exalt self, and help you hate this sin the way Jesus does.

Self-Evaluation Assignment: This is a simple worksheet to help you evaluate yourself.

Rating Scale	Points
Hardly Ever	5
Seldom	4
Sometimes	3
Frequently	2
Almost Always	1

1. _____ I make decisions based on my own opinion of what's best without considering what the Bible teaches.
2. _____ I share my opinion about areas I am not an expert in dogmatically.
3. _____ I end the day without having learned anything from anyone else that I know personally.
4. _____ I feel superior to others.
5. _____ I hear truths about Jesus and they are not very interesting or exciting to me.
6. _____ I am concerned that other people will not think I made a mistake.
7. _____ "My desire for a good reputation is predominantly based on how a good reputation will benefit me rather than how that reputation will serve as a means to a greater end, such as the glory of God, the good of others, or some other unselfish objective." (Lou Priolo)
8. _____ I worry that other people are thinking negatively of me.
9. _____ People feel like they have to be very careful around me so that I'm not annoyed by them.
10. _____ I don't say what I know is true because I am concerned the other person will be upset with me for it.
11. _____ I know that God says I shouldn't do something but I do it because I think it will be better for me than obedience.
12. _____ When I am exposed as being a sinner, I quickly feel self-pity and anger.
13. _____ When I have a problem, I begin by trying to solve it on my own and fail to pray.
14. _____ I avoid talking about what is going on in my heart.
15. _____ When someone compliments me, I think and meditate on it for a long time afterward.
16. _____ I feel jealous of others who are noticed for doing something well that I also am doing.

17. _____ I find more things to complain about during my day than things to be thankful for.
18. _____ I long to be noticed.
19. _____ I feel more confident when I am wearing expensive clothes.
20. _____ I am embarrassed by my education.
21. _____ People are intimidated by me.
22. _____ I feel like others are much worse sinners than I am.
23. _____ I talk negatively about people to others.
24. _____ I am offended by others.
25. _____ I get upset when I see someone who is not as good as I am at something acting and being treated like they are actually good at it.
26. _____ I subtly find ways to introduce my accomplishments into conversations so that others will know what I have done.
27. _____ I refuse to do anything that I don't know if I am good at in front of others.
28. _____ If I find out someone doesn't think I am good at something, it is hard for me to stop thinking about it.
29. _____ I hate being criticized by someone I don't think is as good as me.
30. _____ I am inwardly impressed by the significant ways I have humbled myself for others.

This is just a simple way to stop and think about whether or not you have a problem with seeking to exalt yourself. Obviously, it's not "scientific." But think about it! If your score is on the high end, praise God! But if your score is much below 120, it would be good to go to God, ask for help, listen to these messages several times more, and find someone to talk to.

Application Questions: We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital we respond.

- Do you believe seeking to exalt yourself is the problem God says it is?
- In what ways were you convicted by this message? What do you think you need to do about it?
- What are some common ways you seek to exalt yourself?
- What are some common things you say to yourself to excuse seeking to exalt yourself?
- What are some biblical truths you should replace those lies with?
- Is there someone you need to speak to in order to receive help identifying and overcoming a pattern of self-exaltation in your life? When are you going to speak to them?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.