

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

- Read Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:5; James 4:6; Proverbs 16:18, 18:12, 29:23

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

- What is the subject we are considering today?
- Why are we talking about Luke 14:11 and this subject again?
- Is it wrong to want a good reputation and honor? Why or why not?
- When does it become wrong to want honor?
- How did Jonathan Edwards define pride and what can we learn from his definition?
- What does it look like to seek to exalt yourself when you subtract faith in God, Jesus, salvation, sin, and heaven? Think about each of these specifically.
- See if you can walk through Luke 14:1-14 and identify the different signs the Pharisees were seeking to exalt themselves. (I gave you ten.)
- Which of the ten signs that someone is seeking to exalt themselves stood out to you?
- Are there any others that you would add?

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 we are not talking about
 - b. What we are talking about
2. What are some signs people are seeking to exalt themselves in a sinful way?
 - a. They trust reason over revelation
 - b. They speak like they are teachers when they should be learners
 - c. They don't react to the gospel with awe and worship
 - d. They manipulate others so they can look better
 - e. They are more preoccupied with things the Bible says aren't important than what the Bible says is important
 - f. They use religion to look good in the eyes of other and try to hide what is going on in their heart
 - g. They are more interested in how they look than God being glorified
 - h. They work to grab hold of honor for themselves through their own efforts rather than focusing on being honorable and allowing honor to come as a result
 - i. They treat people differently on the basis of what they think they can do for them
 - j. They are unwilling to be generous when there is nothing in it for themselves. They treat those they think below them with contempt rather than kindness.

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 yourself and identify different ways people seek to exalt themselves so that you will repent of ways in which you are seeking to exalt yourself and be motivated to exercise your faith in the gospel by living your life pursuing humility.

Connecting the Dots: This may help some of you see more clearly how this message works.

1. Introduction: I began the sermon by giving you a quick overview. I did this so you could have a sense of what we are going to be thinking about the next several weeks.
 - a. The text is Luke 14:11.
 - b. The subject is pride and humility.
 - c. The point is to make a case against exalting self, to motivate you to take the opposite approach to life and to help you begin to do that.
 - d. The way we are going to do that is by answering several questions:
 - i. What it means to exalt self
 - ii. How we exalt self
 - iii. Why it is a sin and why it is foolish
 - iv. How to stop exalting self and to begin to humble yourself
 - e. Before we began answering those questions, I thought it was important to take some time to explain why we are going to be talking about this subject.
 - i. I thought this was necessary because we looked at this passage already.
 - ii. I wanted to do this because we are going to be spending three weeks on this one verse.
 1. First I explained the textual motivation for taking so much time to consider this subject.
 - a. This passage is connected to a major theme in Luke.
 - b. This passage answers an important question in Luke.
 - c. The teaching in this passage is repeated in Luke.
 2. The second reason is contextual. What I mean is that looking at our world it's obvious we need to talk about this subject a lot.
 - a. American culture has normalized the exaltation of self.
 - b. But really every culture finds a way to do this.
 - c. The love of approval and honor is a powerful drive for many people.
 3. The third reason is practical.
 - a. This is a dangerous sin.
 - b. It is easy to see in others.
 - c. It is very difficult to see in ourselves.
2. Exposition: Clearly we need to know what it means to exalt self, how we do it, why it is sin, and how to stop. In this message today, we are only going to be able to look at the first two questions. In next week's message, we'll consider the third. And two weeks from now, we'll consider the final question.

- a. First we thought about what it means to exalt yourself. We needed to answer this question because we want to kill this sin. To kill it we need to be very clear about what it is and what it is not.
 - i. We began with what it is not.
 - 1. It is not merely wanting to receive honor. How did I prove that?
 - a. Proverbs 22:1
 - b. Romans 2:5
 - c. Jesus' promise that the humble will be honored.
 - d. The doctrine of glorification
 - 2. Many desires are not wrong in and of themselves but can be wrong or become wrong. This is one of them.
 - ii. What is the wrong way to desire honor or to seek honor?
 - 1. It's an "inordinate" desire.
 - a. I quoted Jonathan Edwards on pride here and broke down his definition:
 - i. "Pride may be thus described: It is a disposition in any person inordinately to desire his own exaltation amongst other beings. It is inordinately desiring to be great or high when compared with other humans."
 - 1. The comparison factor
 - 2. The meaning of inordinate
 - b. It is wanting to exalt self when you don't have faith.
 - i. What happens when you desire glory without faith in God? You want to be God.
 - ii. What happens when you desire exaltation but subtract faith in heaven? You have to be exalted right now.
 - iii. What happens if you subtract faith in justification? You start trying to find your identity in what other people think about you.
 - iv. What happens when you subtract what the Bible teaches about your sinfulness and what you deserve? You start thinking you are better than others and that you deserve to be treated like that.
 - c. We summarized what Jesus means by exalting self as:
 - i. Focusing on externals more than content
 - ii. An emphasis on comparison and looking better than others
 - iii. A very human centered, now centered way of looking at the world that is not really interested in what God thinks but what humans think

- iv. When the desire for honor becomes delusional because truth is not guiding it
 - v. Assuming you are better than you are and more important than you are and that people must see and know how important and good you are and taking matters into your hands to make sure they do.
- b. Second, we began to look more specifically at how exactly people seek to exalt themselves in sinful ways. We did this because this sin is very easy to be against and yet very hard to spot in yourself. It's very common to call pride by other names and so we wanted to think very specifically about what it looks like to exalt ourselves. While there are many examples throughout Scripture, we focused our attention on this passage where we saw ten different illustrations of how people exalt themselves.
 - i. They trust their reason over God's revelation.
 - 1. We see this in how the Pharisees responded to Jesus.
 - ii. They act like they are teachers when it is obvious they should be learners.
 - 1. We see this in how the Pharisees related to Jesus.
 - iii. They are unable or unwilling to react to the gospel and Jesus with awe and worship.
 - 1. We see this in how the Pharisees responded after Jesus healed the man.
 - iv. They use people to make themselves look good.
 - 1. We see this in the fact the Pharisees brought this sick man to their house for the sole purpose of trying to prove that Jesus wasn't the Messiah with no concern for the man himself.
 - v. They are more focused on doing something a certain way that other people approve of than doing it the right way. There is often a preoccupation with things the Bible doesn't consider important.
 - 1. We see this in the Pharisees' attitude about the Sabbath.
 - vi. Hypocrisy. Instead of humbling repenting and dealing with sin, they spend a lot of energy hiding and minimizing it.
 - 1. We see this in the difference between how the Pharisees thought about what Jesus should do for the man and what they would have actually done if it had been their son.
 - vii. They come to situations more interested in how they look than in what God's doing and in God being glorified.
 - 1. We see this in the people looking for seats of honor for themselves after Jesus healed the man with dropsy.
 - viii. They work to grab hold of honor for themselves through their own efforts rather than focusing on being honorable and allowing honor to come as a result.

1. We see this in them not being willing to be honored by others but choosing the seats of honor for themselves.
- ix. They treat people differently on the basis of what they think they can do for them.
 1. We see this in who they chose to invite to their homes for dinner and why.
- x. They are unwilling to be generous to others when they think there is nothing in it for them.
 1. We see this in their attitude toward the poor and needy.
3. Conclusion: We ended by challenging you to make a decision about how you are going to live and to base it on what you believe. This sermon is not meant just for listening.
 - a. You need to look at the way you are actually living your life and ask:
 - i. What kind of exaltation do you want?
 - ii. Who do you want to be exalted by?
 - iii. When do you want to be exalted?
 - iv. How do you think exaltation works?
 - b. You need to exercise faith. There are two strategies for living life. One takes faith in the gospel and one does not. Which strategy are you using to live your life? If you are seeking to exalt self, the root of that is a lack of faith and you need to humble yourself before God and ask Him to transform you.

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

- What are the two different ways of approaching life that we discussed today?
- Can you think of examples from your life where you have sought to exalt yourself?
- How important is the approval of others to you?
- What is the connection between seeking to exalt yourself and not believing the gospel?
- What are some things you need to repent of as a result of this passage? When are you going to do that? What are you going to seek to do differently as a result of repenting?
- 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.