

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, May 7, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 25 | **Pride, Humility, & Joy**

Acts 12:20-25 (& James 4:5-10)

God opposes the **PROUD** (v. 20-23)

pride = self-worship

but gives grace to the **HUMBLE**, (James 4:5-10)

humility = knowing your place

so if you **KILL** your **pride** you'll get true **joy!**

1. Work at **LISTENING** James 1:19

2. Practice **GRATITUDE** 1 Thess. 5:18

3. Learn from **CRITICISM** Prov. 15:32; 12:15

4. Cultivate the Enjoyment of **LIFE** 1 Tim. 6:17

5. Embrace **WEAKNESS** 2 Cor. 12:9-11

6. Laugh at **YOURSELF**

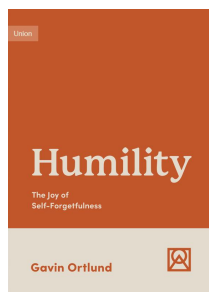
7. Visit a **CEMETERY** Psalm 90:12

8. Study the **UNIVERSE** Psalm 19:1

9. Consider Heavenly **WORSHIP** Isa. 6:1-7; Rev. 5

10. Bathe **Everything** in **HUMILITY**

*These 10 Ways to Kill Your Pride are taken from Chapter 3 of "Humility" by Gavin Ortland, Crossway, 2023.



Read this Book...

I highly recommend this new short book on Biblical humility from Gavin Ortland. It's an easy read, and it will help you pursue real joy in your life. Pick one up below retail (our cost) for \$10 in the Commons Bookstore.

— Pastor Josh

Who is That?

Do you ever get confused by names in the Bible? **You're not alone**... Here's a guide to those who show up in Acts 12:

Herod (v. 1) There's a handful of "Herods" in the New Testament and they're all related (it gets weird in a hurry)... The title "Herod" means *heroic* or *son of a hero*. The Herod in view here is Herod Agrippa the First, grandson of Herod the Great who tried to kill baby Jesus.

James (Brother of John) (v. 2) "James" and "Simon" are the "Bob" and "Tom" of the NT era. This is James the Disciple who grew up in Bethsaida, he was close w/ Peter, John, & Jesus.

James (Brother of Jesus) (v. 17) This James, mentioned by Peter, was Jesus's younger brother. He became a leader in the early church and is the author of the NT book of James.

Peter (v. 3ff) The apostle. He also went by Simon, Simon Peter, and Cephas.

Mary (Mother of John, aka Mark) (v. 12) This Mary (one of *many* in the NT) evidently had a large enough home to need a gate & with plenty of room for the church to meet in, she was likely wealthy and influential.

Mark (aka John or John Mark) (v. 12) Mary's son. He was young, travelled with Paul, Barnabas, & Peter and authored the Gospel of Mark. Check out his cameo in Mark 14:51-52!

Rhoda (v. 13) Her name means "Rose", and she's known for making Peter wait outside!

Blastus (v. 20) Herod's personal assistant/ chief of staff. One of the coolest names ever.

Barnabas (v. 25) The "Son of Encouragement", he was a great leader in the early church.

Saul (aka Paul) (v. 25) The vast majority of the rest of Acts will focus on the Gospel ministry initiated by this former Pharisee.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Here's a random question to discuss and break the ice as you get going:
What posters did you have in your room when you were young?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- In the passage this weekend, we saw Herod struck down because he did not give glory to God, but rather accepted praise from the people as if he were a god. Based on these verses about God being a jealous God, why do you think he doesn't want to share his glory?
 - How would you define God's "glory"?
 - Go read and look carefully at **Exodus 33:18-19 & 34:6-7** — how does *God* seem to define his glory here? Does that change your view of his jealousy?
- Solomon warns us about how we respond to praise in **Proverbs 27:21**. In what ways does praise test us? Can you think of a time when receiving praise from others has been a test for you?
 - Throughout Scripture, people who humble themselves before God receive honor. What do these verses say about humility?

Proverbs 31:28-31 **1 Samuel 2:30** **Psalm 31:23-24**
Psalm 115:1, 13 **James 4:4-10**

- In the first part of Acts 12 covered in last week's message, we saw Peter imprisoned despite obeying God. Meanwhile, Herod actively fought against God's church and seemingly got away with it, living a prosperous life. In the passage this week, however, Herod came to ruin in the end. **Psalm 73** speaks to the apparent prosperity of the wicked. As you read these verses:

- Circle** or **highlight** any words or phrases that show the writer's **mindset or emotions** throughout the Psalm.
- Underline** anything that speaks to **where God is** in this passage.
- Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

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Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR CORE VALUES

These are things you'll see to be true about us...



1. It's All About Jesus!

You'll hear us say this often.—Why? Because *it's all about Jesus!* Apart from his death, burial, and resurrection we're wasting our time.



2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book—and we are to believe the Bible in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



3. All People Matter

No matter who you are, where you're from, what you've done, or what's been done to you—you *matter to Jesus and you matter to us!*



4. We All Need Friends

You were designed to belong, not to go through life alone. Jesus created each of us desiring friendship and to live in community.



5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred, God's Word is sacred, *but our opinions, methods, and traditions are not*—we'll let go of any of them if more people can experience life change through the Gospel!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Psalm 73:25-28 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

²⁵ Whom have I in **heaven** but you? And **there is nothing** on **earth** that I **desire besides** you. ²⁶ My **flesh** and my **heart** may **fail**, but God is the **strength** of my **heart** and my **portion forever**.
²⁷ For **behold**, those who are far from you shall **perish**; you put an end to **everyone** who is **unfaithful** to you. ²⁸ But for me it is **good** to be near God; I have **made** the **Lord** GOD my **refuge**, that I may **tell** of all your works.

U N F A I T H F U L N
 G T A A D E S I R E E
 E H I H E A V E N N L
 T E L L O P E R I S H
 M R B E H O L D I O H
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life groups Study Guide (continued)

- ¹ Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
 - ² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.
 - ³ For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
 - ⁴ For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.
 - ⁵ They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
 - ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.
 - ⁷ Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.
 - ⁸ They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.
 - ⁹ They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.
 - ¹⁰ Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.
 - ¹¹ And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
 - ¹² Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.
 - ¹³ All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.
 - ¹⁴ For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.
 - ¹⁵ If I had said, "I will speak thus," I'd have betrayed the generation of your children.
 - ¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,
 - ¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.
 - ¹⁸ Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.
 - ¹⁹ How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!
 - ²⁰ Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.
 - ²¹ When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, ²² I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.
 - ²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
 - ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.
 - ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
 - ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
 - ²⁷ For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
 - ²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.
- PSALM 73 (ESV)**

- What stood out to you in doing this exercise?
- Have you ever experienced a time where it seemed like others who were disobedient to God were prospering while you were obedient but facing trial and hardship? If so, do you find any similarities between your thoughts in that situation and the writer's experience in Psalm 73?
- How does the Psalm writer's mindset and attitude shift throughout the passage? What caused that shift?
- Is there anything from the Psalm writer's ultimate conclusion in verses 23-28 you can learn from or be encouraged by in your own life?

As you close, take time to pray for each other.

Divide into separate groups of men and women and pray for one another.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

ACTS

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Sunday, May 7, 2023



PART 25

Pride, Humility, & Joy



ACTS 12:20-25 (& James 4:5-10)



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.