





THE SPIRIT OF HEROD

The Spirit of Herod

- Violence
- Abuse of Power
- Wary & Suspicious
- Vengeful
- Seemingly Untouchable & Untouched

Roots of the Spirit of Herod

• Contextual: Family of Origin

Roots of the Spirit of Herod

• Contextual: Family of Origin

• Spiritual: Human Nature

Biblical Parallels

• Pharaoh

Biblical Parallels

- Pharaoh
- Nebuchadnezzar

Biblical Parallels

- Pharaoh
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Satan

Pride & Playing God

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

Jesus' Humility

The Church & Jesus' Humility

Acts 12 Parallels to Jesus' Story

- Timing: around Passover (roughly 10-11 years later)
- Political leader trying to please the Jews
- Peter falsely arrested
- The prison/tomb being sealed
- Strong guard placed to "make it as sure as you can"
- The disciples huddled together in fear
- Angel as part of the deliverance

Acts 12 Parallels to Jesus' Story

- News given to unlikely & confused messenger
- Their witness is initially met with skepticism
- The prison/tomb being sealed
- Disciples had to see for themselves
- Commanded to go tell others of the news of deliverance from death
- Peter & Jesus leave to go to another place
- Repercussions on the guards

INVITATIONS

Resisting the Spirit of Herod



There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others....Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind...If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed. **CS** Lewis

Signs of Pride

- Not wanting to talk with someone or spend time with someone because they don't measure up.
- Thinking, "they should have asked me to do that. I would have done that better."
- Waiting to turn the conversation to highlight something you have done.
- Feeling a good report from someone else's life threatens your worth
- For men: being particularly defensive about something pointed out to you by a woman
- For women: being particularly defensive about something pointed out to you by a man

Signs of Pride

- Hearing about someone else's problems and feeling better about yourself because it has not happened to you
- Hearing someone tell a story and waiting for your name to be mentioned or included in it
- Trying to serve God without prayer
- Thinking pride is not that big of a deal for you
- Not confessing sin unless you are backed into a corner and confronted

Signs of Pride

- Pride looks down on others
- Pride does not listen well
- Pride is stubborn
- Pride is not eager to learn because it is confident in what it already knows
- Pride is not quick to admit wrong because it fears it may look bad or lose its position
- Pride is competitive and easily threatened
- Pride is insecure
- Pride finds it hard to rejoice in the success of others

A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

CS Lewis

A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

CS Lewis

Embodying the Spirit of Christ



Humility is the noble choice to forgo your status, deploy your resources or use your influence for the good of others before yourself...Humility is social. It is not a private act of self-deprecation - banishing proud thoughts, refusing to talk about your achievements and so on. I would call this simple modesty. But humility is about redirecting of your powers, whether physical, intellectual, financial or structural, for the sake of others. John Dickson For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth; when He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He was suffering, He did not threaten but entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:21-23

Benedict's Ladder

1. Fear of God & mindfulness of him

2. Doing God's will, not your own or other people's

- 3. Willing to subject ourselves to the direction of others
- 4. Patience to accept the difficulty of others
- 5. Radical honesty about your own weaknesses & faults
- 6. Deeply aware of being the chief of sinners
- 7. Speaking less
- 8. Transformation into the love of God