

Kings & Kingdoms #4
The Pitfall of Pride

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 26

Discussion Questions

1. How did pride ruin a life of a person you know?
2. Pride often brings the best and worst of feelings. A lot of times, people tend to be upset and jealous when they are not openly recognized after they did something exceptionally. This is a sign of pride.

Pride is dangerous and can ruin a person. Read 2 Chronicles 26. At 16, Uzziah was not too young to follow God. He did what was right in God's eyes, and because of that he became king of Judah at a very young age, and as long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success (v. 5). How did God help Uzziah to become exceedingly strong and powerful (v. 6-15)? Share how God has evidently helped you in order to accomplish something great. Would you have done as well without His help?

3. King Uzziah matured quickly and did great things. His fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped, as accounted in the Scriptures. Despite having great success as king, what went wrong with Uzziah (v. 15b)? Discuss how power destroys a person. Does success come singlehandedly? How does self-confidence and self-sufficiency lead a person into the pitfall of pride? How could it be avoided?
4. King Uzziah fell into the pitfall of pride (v. 16-18). When he was strong, he became prideful. He began to think he was stronger than God. He did as he pleased by burning incense in the temple, which only priests were allowed to do, as specifically instructed by God. He knowingly usurped the priests' God-given responsibility because of pride. Pride indeed is the beginning of one's downfall. Uzziah's life story shows us three signs that manifest when pride sets in:
 - a. *Pride causes people to think of themselves more highly than they actually are.* You tend to forget that it is because of God's grace, mercy, and blessings that you are who you are today. Pride takes the glory of God. How did the priest try to stop and Uzziah from being unfaithful to God (v. 17-18)? Discuss in what ways people tend to think that they are higher than they are. How do you usually react to people who are so full of themselves? If you sense that pride has crept into your life, what should you do about it?

- b. *Pride causes people to get angry when they are corrected (v. 19).* What was Uzziah's reaction to the valiant men who stood up to and rebuked him? How does absolute power corrupt a person? Have you allowed your success to get the better of you? Why is it important not to let yourself be surrounded by people who only tell you what you want to hear?
- c. *Pride causes God to act in order to humble you and to protect His glory (v. 20).* King Uzziah already had it all, but he also thought he could take anything he wanted. Describe what happened to King Uzziah because of his disobedience to God, which was a result of his pride? Uzziah forced God to act to stop him. This is the danger of pride—when God is forced to act, because He doesn't share His glory with anyone. How was King Uzziah remembered as a king despite starting out so well (v. 21-23)? How does pride turn you away from trusting God? Discuss how you, as a Christian, could "steal" the glory from God. Share how you think you could keep yourself humble before the Lord.

Walk

God is God. You can never be as big as Him; not even close! In the presence of such sovereignty and power, you need to be humble. Do not let success make your heart prideful. Examine yourself and see if you can ask God not to give you success that would make you conceited. How does the cross keep you humble before God? How does guarding your heart from pride keep you from the pitfall of pride? Who among your family members or friends speak the truth to keep you humble? King Uzziah's life would have certainly had a better ending had he listened to the priests who rebuked him. Finally, why is it important to know how to say "I am sorry" or "I was wrong" if you have to?

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, I know sometimes, in my pride, I view being nothing without You as an unacceptable fact. Allow me to humble myself before You, and ask for your mercy in forgiving me for thinking I can ever be anything, do anything, without Your grace. I ask for your blessing of a second chance to live a life of righteousness, and the strength and wisdom that comes with it. Bless me also with people who will speak Your truth to me with gentleness and love, especially in times I need correction. I ask these in Jesus' name. Amen.