

Learning Humility

Mark 10:28
Charlie Brackett

Jesus had impressed upon the twelve how difficult it would be for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. When he heard it, Peter was prompted to say, "See, we have left all and followed You."

Do you suppose Peter was bragging just a little here? There is evidence to that effect. Do you remember when Jesus walked on the water to them, and Peter said, "Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water." Matthew 14:28 Jesus said, "Come," and Peter started, but you will recall that he lost his nerve and sank. It seems Peter was a little braggadocious on that occasion. And when he said, "I will never deny You, Lord," but in just a few hours he denied Him three times.

Peter could brag a bit, and when he did, he usually got himself in trouble. Bragging does that. And even if you seem to get away with it, it will later catch up to you. Bragging is evil. Listen to James 4:13-16. "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead we ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.' But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."

That's pretty plain. Boasting is evil, of course, because of the pride behind it. Earlier in chapter four James quoted from Proverbs 3:34, "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

I can see Peter here in Mark 10:28 with his chest out just a little. "See, we have left all and followed You." Peter had some things to learn about self and pride, and many of us do too. Peter was able to learn his lessons, and he went on to be of great service to the Lord, giving God the credit. The jury is still out on us. Will we learn the lesson of humility? One cannot be a servant of the Humble Savior unless he does.