



ACTS

CHRIST BUILDS
HIS CHURCH

Glory Theft | Acts 12:20-23

MAIN POINT

Pride attempts to rob God
of His rightful glory.



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APPLICATION

Humble yourselves before the
Lord and He will exalt you.

(James 4:6-10)



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EPHESIANS

“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER.”

3:20-21

“Glory Theft”

Acts 12:20-23 – *Pastor Scott Gnuse*

Main point: Pride attempts to rob God of His rightful glory.

1. Pride seeks the approval of others (1-4, 20)

2. Pride draws attention to self (v.21)

3. Pride accepts the praise of men (v.22)

4. Pride consumes the life of the arrogant (v.23)

Application: Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you (James 4:6-10)

Growing Deeper

1. How is the desire to be God or assuming the role of God the temptation of every human heart? How does pride feed this desire?
2. In what sense is living for the approval of others like being imprisoned? How have you allowed the fear of man to control your life? What is the solution to this bondage?
3. How are you tempted to draw attention to yourself? Is it the way you dress? The way you speak? The position you hold?
4. Why is the praise of men so desirable? Where might you need to redirect credit for yourself to the God who truly deserves the praise?
5. Acts has been a study about the Lord building his church. In what sense does pride hinder or serve as an obstacle to the growth of Christ's church?
6. Read Genesis 3:1-7. What parallels can you draw between this passage and Herod's struggles with pride in Acts 12:20-23?
7. Read James 4:1-10. What does James say is the source of our relational conflicts? What steps of repentance are required? What steps do you need to prioritize this week?

Heart Preparation: We will be taking a short break from our study in Acts. To prepare for the final section of Acts, spend time reading through Acts 13-28 over the next month. By reading one chapter each day, you can read through this section twice before we resume our study on October 4th.

Prayer Prompt: Gracious Father, please forgive me for how my pride often gets in the way of your mission to build the church. I confess that my faith can often become a show, and I am far too quick to seek the praise of others. Humble me under your mighty hand, that I may boast in your grace – for when I am weak, you are strong! Amen.