

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

"Dancing Beggars and Little Kings"

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Speaker

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This Church like all churches must now answer one of the first and perhaps most difficult question when starting out?

- Who will lead them?
 - All Churches are led by men and women and all men and women are filled with Pride...
- Therefore, All Churches face this same great obstacle when faced with the reality of... Ultimate Control.

"Pride is Humanity's most ancient obstacle; Our first and primary enemy of Holiness."

The Bible says a lot about Pride...

(Vs) Psalm 10:4 – In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."

(Vs) Proverbs 13:10 – Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

(Vs) Isaiah 2:12 – The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled.)

- Humanity has been drenched in pride from the very beginning.

Adam and Eve

- It was Pride that brought about The Fall of Man.

**Pride is taking the glory that belongs to God alone and keeping it for ourselves.
Pride is essentially self-worship.**

As the Church, we are called to face this sinful epidemic head on.

- The acknowledgment of this battle within us is even built into what we are called... "Christian, meaning Little Christ."
- A phrase meant to remind us that we are not at the center of the movement... although if it was up to us, that's where we'd all choose to live...As Little Kings.

At its core... "Pride is, by nature, competitive. It is competitiveness that is at the very heart of pride. 'Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next person. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about.'" – C.S Lewis

**Thought: On the other side... "True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. (This is) The freedom of self-forgetfulness."
– Timothy Keller**

The Acts Church's First Steps...(Vs) Acts 3:1-5

"Look at us..."

- Give me your gaze, your hearing, and your attention!
- As Christians, we are called to be seen...

(Vs) Matt 5:16 – "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

(Vs) 1st Peter 2:9 – "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Peter knows this and so responds to those tear-filled, peering eyes.

- (Vs) Acts 3:6 – I give you Jesus... and all that entails...

This is still your role as "Little Christ's" in the lives of those 'Looking at you'...

- To live in a way that causes people to watch, and then to give them Jesus...
- Look what happens next... (Vs) Acts 3:7-8 – The Beggar enters dancing...

This Lame Beggar has become a Worshipping Witness of Jesus... a rag covered Little Christ

- Shouldn't this be the picture of us all coming to worship?
- For it is a real time illustration of how the Gospel is working on the inside of us.

It's here when the people first realized what had happened...

- (Vs) Acts 3:9-11 – "These men healed that man..."
- They thought they were standing in the presence of power... of Little Kings... And People love to love their little Kings.
- **Illustration:** David and Absalom – "It's not what Absalom did that destroyed his life... but what he didn't do..."

Thought: "Little Kings are just people, others can lift up or tear down as they see fit... making they, themselves, feel powerful, like little Kings as well. "

At this point, Peter faces both his and the new Church's first great spiritual crossroad...

- For He now must choose to listen to what people say he is, or to listen to what Jesus says he is... Peter must decide... is he a Ruler or a Servant.

- (Vs) Acts 3:12-16, Peter directs them to Christ the Risen...

Right then and there, Peter answered that most difficult of questions.

- His Answer was 'Jesus'
- Through God's grace, Peter avoided the great temptation of Pride.
- He knew that he was not in charge of his life, like those who would portray themselves as little Kings...
- He knows that as "Little Christ's" we are called only to witness, never to rule.

Then Peter does something incredible...

- He repeats the offer first made to the beggar for his outward healing... but instead, now pleading to those broken and bent on the inside. (Vs) Acts 3:17-20
- He goes on to share with them both prophetic and scriptural proofs of the Jesus they Crucified....
- (Vs) Acts 3:26 – "Repent and be healed on the inside..."

Even now... "Through the Holy Spirit we are all 'Little Christ's overcoming 'Little Kings' on our way to becoming 'Dancing Beggars'"

- So much of the process weighs upon how we answer that all-important question: **"Who will Lead You?"**