

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes.

Our topic today is an unusual one. It is rarely addressed, though it is a subject that is important to God. Let's set the stage.

King Saul's pride was the cause of his removal from the throne.

He had taken it upon himself to personally offer a sacrifice, rather than obey God's instructions to wait for Samuel, who, as a priest, was qualified. He also did not completely destroy a conquered city, though told to do so. His motives were wrong.

Proverbs 16:18 says...Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

God told the prophet, Samuel, to go to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem, and there He would show him who to anoint as the next king. The story is found in 1 Samuel chapter 16. Verses 6 & 7 read...

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said unto Samuel, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

David was the youngest of his father, Jesse's, eight sons. He was tending the sheep at the time. God did not choose ANY of the seven that were presented. Instead he had Jesse call David, and God said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

The reason for God's selection was that David's heart was right before Him. His motives were right. On our program, today, we are going to take a look at motives. Stay tuned, you just might learn something interesting about yourself.

Though King David did many things wrong, God called him 'a man after His own heart'. Some people can't understand why God would say this about David. But unlike Daniel and Joseph, God chose to record David's flaws in Scripture. Why? Because it gives us hope that we, flawed as we are, can have God's favor as well. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we receive the righteousness of Jesus. God does not see as 'flawed' anymore. Though David sinned, he was not proud; he kept short accounts with God and God forgave him. His heart was always repentant. Ours should be, too.

Is pride really that important to God? Listen to Proverbs 6:16-19...

...six things the Lord hates: yes, seven are an ABOMINATION unto him: a PROUD look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies and one who sows discord among brethren.

Pride is right there in the list with MURDER – and it is considered an abomination; something disgusting & vile, to God!

So, the question we need to ask ourselves is “Are we proud?” Why do we do what we do for the Lord? But, before we start beating ourselves up, let’s consider another question, “Is it wrong to want to earn a reward?”

In 1 Cor. 9:24-25, the apostle Paul writes...

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

He also stated in Phil. 3:14...

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

God wired us to want to achieve and win a prize.

But keep in mind, Ephesians 2:8-9 says that our works are not to earn Salvation, but rather as a ‘thank you’ to God for what Jesus, alone, did for us.

The Bible is replete with verses that state that God gives rewards.

Here are but a few. We will be rewarded for...

- **keeping His decrees (Ps. 19:9-11)**
- **being faithful (Pr. 14:14)**
- **our good deeds (Ps. 62:12)**
- **being kind to the poor (Pr. 19:17)**
- **giving to the needy & praying and fasting without showing off (Matt. 6:2-3, 16-18)**
- **giving our enemy food and drink (Pr. 25:22)**
- **giving a cup of cold water in Jesus’ Name (Matt. 10:42)**
- **having faith and earnestly seeking to know God (Heb. 11:6)**
- **forgiving, loving and praying for our enemies (Matt. 5:11-12)**
- **both planting seed (testifying) and watering it (1 Cor. 3:7-9)**
- **being persecuted for Christ’s sake (not because of our own bad personality, though) (Matt. 15:11-12)**
- **serving God wholeheartedly in whatever we do, as unto the Lord, not men (Eph. 6:7-9 & Col. 3:23-25)**

Matthew 16:27 says...

..the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's Glory with His angels, and then He will REWARD each person according to what they have done.

You know what? It's ok to want to work for a reward, but we need to access our motive. Is it to glorify ourselves, or God?

That same wonderful verse we just read has a counterpart in 1 Cor. 3:11-15. It reads...

...no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

I can't imagine how I'll feel if what I thought I'd be rewarded for is burned up in front of my very eyes. I believe there will be a time of reckoning and many a sad moment before God wipes away our tears forever.

I came across this true story in God's Little Devotional book of someone who had the right motivation.

For more than a quarter of a century, Arnold Billie was a rural mail carrier. His daily route took him sixty-three miles through two counties and five municipalities. Mr. Billie did more than deliver the mail; he provided 'personal service'. Anything a person might need to purchase from the post office, Mr. Billie provided – stamps, money orders, pickup service. All a customer had to do was to leave the mailbox flag up.

One elderly woman had trouble starting her lawn mover, so whenever she wanted to use it, she would simply leave it by her mailbox, raise the flag, and when Mr. Billie came by, he would start it for her. Mr. Billie gave a new definition to the phrase 'public servant'!

True Christian servants rarely think of themselves as doing anything other than ordinary, when what they actually do is quite extraordinary. True servants are motivated by LOVE. It is LOVE

they know they have received from Christ. And it is LOVE they give.

The saying goes...The person who does things that count, doesn't usually stop to count them.

How do we know if our motives are right? I believe that if you are filled with joy at the thought of laying your crowns and rewards at the Lord's feet, Who alone is worthy, then what you did, you did for the right reason.

This song is so pictorial...try to see yourself there as I sing it.

***** **WRITER: Carolyn Cross**
*** MEDALS, CROWNS & TROPHIES *** **Lari Goss, Phil Goss**
***** **LENGTH: 5:48**

***Unworthy I am – to make a glorious entrance
into the great eternal Kingdom of my Lord
There are medals crowns & trophies
awaiting in the Presence of the Only One worthy of reward
To think that He would give to me - Trophies of my own
What shall I do – as I bow before the throne?***

***I won't hang my crowns from the walls of a mansion
I won't pin my robe with medals for everyone to see
I'll display my trophies – at the highest place in heaven
When I lay them at my Savior's feet***

***To bow before my Lord –in Majesty and Glory
And see Him for the first time face to face
To stand before the Lamb – who was crucified to save me
And thank Him for His mercy love & grace***

***But the greatest thing of all to me
– is to kneel before His Throne
And to offer Him – everything I won***

(Repeat chorus)

***At His feet – I'll lay them down
When I receive – my robe and crown
So worthy is the Lamb
Here's my trophies – here's my crown***

***I'll display my trophies – at the highest place in heaven
When I lay them at my Savior's feet***

Here's my trophies – here's my crown
Here's my trophies – here's my crown
Here's my crown

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