



Shemaiah: The Perils of Pride (1 Kings 12:1-24) Truth to Power (Part 3)

THE BIG IDEA

Pride leads to division, but humility leads to unity.

OPENING

- The dictionary defines “pride” as an inflated view of one’s own superiority over others. Why do you think pride is such a universal struggle for people?
- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “humble”?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read 1 Kings 11:28. What do you learn about Jeroboam? What has changed in 1 Kings 12:3-4? What do you think caused this change?
- What do Rehoboam’s advisors suggest to Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12:7? This response would require humility on Rehoboam’s part. How does Rehoboam respond to their advice in v. 8?
- Read 1 Kings 12:15. This verse is an example of the mystery that exists between God’s sovereignty and human responsibility. Christians sometimes call the belief that God’s sovereignty and human freewill are both true “compatibilism.”¹ How does this passage suggest that both are true?
- How did the prophet Shemaiah speak truth to power in 1 Kings 12:22-24? How is he identified in v. 22?

¹Compatibilism is “the view that divine sovereignty and human freedom are compatible and not mutually exclusive (*Pocket Dictionary of the Reformed Tradition* [InterVarsity, 2013], p. 35).



- According to the *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, "In the Greco-Roman world many regarded humility as a sign of weakness or even a character flaw... That Christians should view humility as a virtue was therefore quite striking."² Do you think our world today also regards humility as a sign of weakness? How do you see this evidenced?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Spend each day this week prayerfully meditating on Philippians 2:5-11:

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own
advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death
— even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father (NIV).*

PRAYER REQUESTS

²T. J. Jenney, "Humility," *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Eerdmans Publishing, 2000), p. 617