

PRIDE SURGERY
Job 40:1-14

INTRO: Before I begin this morning, I want us to bow our heads for a word of prayer. I'm going to ask you to pray a very simple prayer. I want you to ask God, that if He sees a need in you, you want Him to speak to you this morning. Do not think of others and their need to hear this message. Ask God to speak to you if there is a need. And then promise Him that if He speaks to you, you will respond to Him this morning (Prayer).

It was nine years ago, I think, that I preached through the book of Job. I titled the series, "Job: Man of God." When I was done, I said that if I should redo the series I would call it, "Job: Pride Surgery."

Now, the name Job means something like, "persecuted". Job 1:1 says he was perfect and upright. The word perfect can speak of moral purity, but it may also speak of one who lacks nothing in physical strength and beauty. I think the thought here may be that Job was a handsome and godly man. I do not find in this book a man who had no spiritual problems.

No one knows when this book was written, but I think it is the first Bible book ever written. I think it was written in the time when dinosaurs roamed the earth and we will see why I think that later. If that is correct, then we must ask a question: Why would God write a book like this before He wrote about creation? Is there a possible answer to that question? Well, I think there is. You see, before creation took place, sin took place in the universe. I cannot deal with the subject here, but I believe God created man in order to justly deal with sin in the universe.

Now it is held by almost all scholars of Scripture that sin began in an angel called Lucifer, and that sin was the sin of pride. Turn to Isaiah 14 (read 12-14). So, if Job is the first book ever written that went into the Bible, our question is, "Why did God have it written first?" And I believe it is because it deals with the sin of pride; the chief sin of the universe. It is the sin which becomes most horrible when it is found in the upright. Such an one was Lucifer.

For many people, Job is a book on why good people suffer. Here was Job, a very righteous man, and we think he suffered for unexplainable reasons. And maybe most of us know what chapters 1-2 are about, but the rest of the book is a mystery to most of us. Yet it is the rest of the book that reveals its purpose.

Here is what I believe happened. Job was a man after God's own heart. He was a righteous man. He helped people. He cared about others, as the book clearly shows. And then one day, Satan, subtle Satan found entrance into Job. And how did he gain entrance? Through Job's righteousness, the very last place one would have expected it. And he began to tell Job how righteous he was until a tumor began to grow in Job. It was the very same tumor that had first found its way into another very righteous being; Lucifer. It was the tumor of pride.

And when God saw this tumor begin to develop, He knew that if He did not take some drastic steps, this tumor would rob him of this very righteous man. And you can read chapters 1-39 to see this very serious surgery God did on Job. We are going to look only at the part where God finally removes this tumor and Job is healed of this sin.

I am going to give you a proposition. Then I will give you the illustrations that give evidence for that proposition, and then I will give you the application of all this as I see it.

I. THE PROPOSITION

We begin then, with the proposition and I give it from Job 40 (Read 6-14.) Let me state the proposition in brief: *Job, if you can make proud and wicked people humble, then I will confess that you can save yourself. You don't need Me any more.* Now there are two kinds of humility. There is the humility that is brought on me by humbling circumstances. Now there are two ways to be humbled. I may be humbled by things done to me. For example, the police stop me on a busy street and give me a ticket for not wearing my seat belt and a lot of people that I know drive by. That is humbling. But the Lord may, in the midst of life and through His Word teach me many things and I learn to humble myself. It is this last kind of

humility I am speaking about this morning. You see, Scripture says, "Humble yourselves."

So let me ask you: What kind of a task is it to humble people in this way? How much energy does it take to make proud people humble? Well, God has answers that question in these last chapters in Job. God gives Job two illustrations in the book of Job, with regard to how much energy it takes to humble proud and wicked people. We want to look at these two illustrations briefly.

II. THE ILLUSTRATIONS

We want to now look at several illustrations that will give evidence for the proposition I gave you. But before we do that, I ask, why does God give us chapters 1-39? Why does God go through the trouble of telling us all this? If you want to know something important about this book, go through those chapters some time and underline all the places where Job talks about himself. I think you will find a man who is proud of his own righteousness. Go to chapter 23 for a moment (read 1-7). He is saying, "I wish I could come into the presence of God. I would present my case to Him, I would fill my mouth with arguments and I would understand His answers!"

Well, God sits patiently and listens to Job over and over again. And then finally, finally he speaks to Job. Look at it in chapter 38 (read 1-3). Now God asks Job question after question after question. And when He is done asking we come to chapter 40 (read 3-5). God now has Job's ear. Job would not have been willing to confess his own ignorance of his problem before he went through all of chapters 1-39. But now he can hear and now God will speak to him through two illustrations.

The first illustration is given in 40:15-24 (read). We have described for us here an animal by name of behemoth. I do not have time this morning to show you why I believe this, but I believe this creature is a dinosaur of some kind. You see, this book likely took place in a setting when dinosaurs still roamed this earth.

Now verse 24 in Job 40 is very hard to translate. But I am quite convinced that it should read something like this: Can anyone take behemoth when he is watching? Can anyone pierce his nose with barbs? Well, here is an animal that may weigh as much as 50-100 tons, according to Kent Hovund. Many of you have watched the videos done by Kent Hovind and he explains the weight of such dinosaurs.

Now how much chance is there of anyone capturing an animal this size when it is watching? The chance is less than zero, if there is such a thing. And I believe the point God is making is that this is how much chance man has of humbling man. That is how much energy it would take for man to humble proud and wicked people.

In the next chapter, the Lord uses the largest sea monster to show how big pride is. This animal is called leviathan (read 41:1-2). And what the Lord is saying to Job is, if you can catch leviathan with a fishing line, which without doubt weighed many, many tons, then you might humble proud and wicked people. How much energy does it take to humble proud and wicked people? Well, it is the biggest task the Lord has.

Many years ago we were fishing the Skeena River for Spring Salmon. After fishing all day, I finally hooked about a 20-30 pound salmon. I got it close to shore and all of a sudden it began to run, and it pulled my line out all the way until the 40 pound test line came to an end, and when the line broke it sounded like a rifle shot. Now what kind of line would you have to have to catch a fish that is 100 pounds? How about one that is 1,000 pounds? How about one that is 2,000 pounds? Well, how about one that weighs as much as three large school buses? Well, chances have zeroed out again. That is how much chance man has of humbling man!

Now notice what this Leviathan thinks of himself in 41:34 (read).

III. THE APPLICATION

We now come to the application. We're asking, how does all this apply to us? Well, pride is a universal area of defeat. And there is something very scary about pride. It is almost undetectable by the one who has it. The one who is proud seldom knows it. It is something like high blood pressure which is called by some, the silent killer. Someone has said pride is like bad breath. Everybody else knows when someone has it, but the person who has it does not know it. Pride is the most despicable sin there is in the eyes of God. And pride is a universal area of defeat.

Lou Sutera told the story that some years ago revival meetings had been scheduled with them for a certain church. And before they came, the pastor said to his wife, "Honey, I am going off by myself to spend a day with God and to have Him show me any area that is not right in my life." So he went and when he was back his wife asked how the day went. He said, "Guess what honey? The Lord never showed me a single thing." The meetings began and the Lord began to speak to this proud pastor. He found one area of pride after another, and when God had discovered to him his pride, he too was revived!

Maybe you say, "Thank goodness I do not have much trouble with pride." Chances are we are so proud God has not yet been able to reveal it to us. Oh, may each of us let God speak to our hearts in this message. Lou Sutera tells of another man who came to testify and he said, "I have good news for you and I have bad news. Let me give you the good news first: None of you has as much pride as I have. The bad news is, you all have plenty yourselves."

Let me ask you this question: How much energy does it take to make proud people humble? Answer? It takes so much energy, that if you have the energy to do it, then you have the energy to save yourself! How much energy does it take for a person to save himself? Well, it takes more than all mankind put together can generate! How much does it take for God to humble you and I? Well, it seems to me that for God to create the universe was easier.

Do you think that sounds exaggerated? Well, in the rest of this chapter, God will show Job just what

kind of a job it is to humble people. So let us read chapter 15-24 (read). We have described for us here an animal by name of behemoth. I do not have time this morning to show you why I believe this, but I believe this creature is a dinosaur. You see, this book likely took place in a setting when dinosaurs still roamed this earth. If Job lived in the time of Abraham, which was shortly after the flood, then doubtless this is so.

Lou Sutura speaks of the young man who said, "I want to be used of God. I want to love his Word. I have some pride, but this is not my main problem." But pride is not "a" sin. It is the very heart of sin. Lou points out that our English word pride has the big I right in the middle. Sin too, has the I in the middle. Pride and gratitude do not live in the same heart. You see, the word thanksgiving starts with the letter I. But before you can spell thanksgiving, you have to cross that first letter out and so you have a T. And there is the cross. Until the big I is crossed out in us, there is no thanksgiving. Ask yourself, "How thankful am I?" And if there is not much gratitude, then how is it otherwise than that the heart is full of pride? What does God think about pride. It stirs up such a stink to Him that it wants to make Him vomit. God hates pride. It is anti God. Pride is simply self centeredness.

I want you to see Job's final humbling in the last chapter of this book (read verses 1-6). Now I ask you, do you think you have pride? It is some years ago I was given a copy of several pages from a book written by Nancy Leigh DeMoss called, "Brokenness: The Heart God Revives." In her little book she asks, "Are you a 'broken Christian?' A broken Christian is one with the big I crossed out. Then she gives a list of characteristics of pride. I have edited a few of these as I did the tract, "The Seven Evidences Of The Self Life." But, based on these characteristics, how would you answer question: Am I a broken Christian? How would those in your family or your workplace or your church respond if they were asked, 'Is he/she a broken Christian?' Most important, what would God say?" Well, let me read them for you. You may not agree with all of these, but just let God speak to your heart where He wishes.

1. Proud people focus on the failures of others and can readily point out those faults. *Broken people are more conscious of their own spiritual need than of anyone else's.*

2. Proud people have a critical, faultfinding spirit. They magnify everyone else's faults and minimize their own. *Broken people are compassionate - they have the kind of love that overlooks a multitude of sins; they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven. (Reworded).*

3. Proud people are especially prone to criticize those in positions of authority - their pastor, their boss, their husband, their parents - and talk to others about the faults they see. *Broken people reverence, encourage, and lift up those that God has placed in positions of authority, and they talk to God in intercession, rather than gossiping about the faults they see in others.*

4. Proud people are self-righteous; they think highly of themselves and look down on others. *Broken people think the best of others; they esteem others as better than themselves.*

5. Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit. *Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for God and for others.*

6. Proud people have to prove they are right - they have to get the last word. *Broken people are willing to yield the right to be right.*

7. Proud people claim rights and have a demanding spirit. *Broken people yield their rights and have a meek spirit.*

8. Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation. *Broken people are self-denying and self-sacrificing.*

9. Proud people desire to be served - they want life to revolve around them and their own needs. *Broken people are motivated to serve others and to be sure others' needs are met before their own.*

10. Proud people desire to be known as a success. *Broken people are motivated to be faithful and to make others successful.*

11. Proud people have a feeling - conscious or subconscious - that "This ministry (or this organization) is privileged to have me and my gifts." They focus on what they can do for God. *Broken people have a heart attitude that says, "I don't deserve to have any part in this ministry" they know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.*

12. Proud people crave self-advancement. *Broken people desire to promote others.*

13. Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated for their efforts. *Broken people have a sense of their own unworthiness; they are thrilled that God would use them at all.*

14. Proud people get wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked. *Broken people are eager for others to get the credit, and they rejoice when others are lifted up.*

15. Proud people are elated by praise and deflated by criticism. *Broken people know that any praise of their accomplishments belongs to the Lord and that criticism can help them grow into spiritual maturity.*

16. Proud people feel confident in how much they know. *Broken people are humbled by how very much they have to learn.*

17. Proud people are self-conscious; they worry about what others think of them. *Broken people are not preoccupied with what others think of them.*

18. Proud people are concerned about appearing respectable; they are driven to protect their image and reputation. *Broken people are concerned with being real; they care less about what others think than about what God knows - they are willing to die to their own reputation.*

19. Proud people can't bear to fail or for anyone to think they are less than perfect. This can drive them to extremes - workaholic tendencies, perfectionism, the tendency to drive others or to place unrealistic expectations on themselves or others. *Broken people can recognize and live within God-given limitations.*

20. Proud people are unwilling for others to know what they are really like. *Broken people are willing for others to know what they are really like.*

21. Proud people are quick to blame others. *Broken people accept personal responsibility and can acknowledge where they were wrong in a situation.*

22. Proud people are not willing to approach others when there is a misunderstanding or when they have been sinned against. *Broken people are willing to seek to right a misunderstanding or to rebuke one who sins against them and to seek to bring about restoration. (reworded)*

23. Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when corrected. *Broken people receive correction with a humble open spirit.*

24. Proud people find it difficult to discuss their spiritual needs with others. *Broken people are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.*

25. Proud people try to control the people and the circumstances around them - they are prone to manipulate. *Broken people trust in God - they rest in Him and are able to wait for Him to act on their behalf.*

26. Proud people become bitter and resentful when they are wronged; they have emotional temper tantrums; they hold others hostage and are easily offended; they carry grudges and keep a record of other's wrongs. *Broken people give thanks in all things; when repentance takes place they are quick to forgive those who have wronged them. (Reworded)*

27. Proud people want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover

up. *Broken people aren't overly concerned with who knows or who finds out about their sin - they are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.*

28. Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?" *Broken people are quick to admit their failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.*

29. Proud people tend to deal in generalities when confessing their sin to God ("Dear Lord, please forgive me for all my sins..." or expressing spiritual need to others ("I need to become a better Christian..."). *Broken people are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin: "Lord, I agree with you that I love myself more than I love my mate; I confess that I am addicted to television; I'm a glutton; I have a critical spirit; I am angry with my mother..."*

30. Proud people are concerned about the consequences of their sin. They are disturbed over problems caused by their sin - for example, the financial bondage created by overspending, or the problems in their marriage that have resulted from selfishness and immoral choices. *Broken people are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin. They are more concerned about how their sin has grieved and dishonored God than about the problems it has created in their lives.*

31. Proud people are remorseful over their sin - sorry that they got caught or found out. *Broken people are truly repentant over their sin, and the evidence of their repentance is that they forsake sin.*

32. Proud people are blind to the true condition of their hearts. *Broken people walk in the light and acknowledge the truth about their lives.*

33. Proud people compare themselves with others and feel worthy of respect. *Broken people compare themselves with the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.*

34. Proud people don't think they need to repent of anything. *Broken people realize that they need to maintain a continual heart attitude of repentance.*

35. Proud people don't think they need revival, but they are sure everyone else does. (In fact, right about now, they are making a mental list of the people they think need to read this book or *hear this message!*) *Broken people continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.*

So let me ask this question again: Based on these characteristics, how would you answer the question: Am I a broken Christian? How would those in your family or your workplace or your church respond if they were asked, 'Is he/she a broken Christian?' Most important, what would God say?"

CONCL: Well, our subject this morning has been as big as a behemoth or a Leviathan: PRIDE. Let me say this, as we close. Without the potential for pride, we could be of no value to God. What glorifies God most is when we overcome pride, the self life, and we give ourselves entirely to Him; His will; His desires for us; His righteousness; His holiness and so on.

How big is pride? It is so big that if one person is able to truly make others humble, he has become so good and powerful that he can save himself from hell. He would no longer need God for that! And so, to get a little perspective on how large pride is the Lord compares it to going over to the huge dinosaur called behemoth, and capture him while he is looking. The chance is 100% negative. The chance of man being able to do that is as big as catching Leviathan on a fishing line. Again it is 100% negative.

If the Lord spoke to you this morning in some specific way, I would like to give you an opportunity to respond to this message this morning by standing to your feet. Now if you do not stand this morning I want everyone to know that may have nothing to do with your saying, "I don't have trouble with pride." I only want you to stand if God spoke to some specific issue in your life. If you have a general sense of condemnation and nothing specific has been pointed out by the Lord in your life, please do not stand. When God wants

to let you know something, He does so specifically. But if God touched something specific area this morning and you say, "I want the victory", I am going to ask you to stand. I want to close and pray that the Lord will grant you the desire to overcome that specific thing or those things.