

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Live in such a way that God can be proud to brag about you.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When we speak of bragging *rights*, we're not talking about someone who is boastful and arrogant, just trying to make a name for him or herself. We're talking about someone who has *earned* the right to boast, if they so choose. And nobody is able to speak out against them; they can back up every word they say.
- ❖ When it comes to God, He certainly knows how to brag. But His bragging is really of a different sort. He doesn't choose to speak a lot about Himself, except where it highlights His acts of love toward His people, especially relating to His saving power (Isaiah 43:11, 45:21).
- ❖ What God *really* loves is to brag about His children! He's very subtle most of the time, but it's quite clear when He's bragging. Take Genesis 6:9 as an example. Through Moses He said, "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." God was very proud of Noah.
- ❖ Or how about Abraham—the father of faith (Romans 4:16).
- ❖ Or Jacob, renamed Israel—the prince of God who wrestled with Him and prevailed. God bragged on him by changing his name (Genesis 32:28).
- ❖ Then there's Moses—the meekest man on Earth (Numbers 12:3).
- ❖ And Samuel—the child with an open ear to the voice of God (see 1 Samuel 3).
- ❖ Joseph was the faithful dreamer and sustainer.
- ❖ And David was the man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:22; Acts 13:22).
- ❖ And of course, there's Daniel—steadfast in adversity and opposition.
- ❖ The descriptions we read of these stalwarts of scripture sound a lot like God showing off His children to those who need good examples to follow.
- ❖ Our focus today is on the events recorded in the first two chapters of Job, where God brags in a very overt way as He speaks to Satan about Job (1:8).
- ❖ God looked at the life this man was living and wanted to brag about His son Job in the assembly of the "sons of God" (as the scripture describes these heavenly beings in Job 1:6).
- ❖ Seeing Satan there also, God asked him: "Where have you been, and have you considered my servant Job?"
- ❖ As the old chorus says: "I want to live the way He wants me to live," so God can say: "Satan, have you considered My servant _____?" (insert your name).
- ❖ The first time God asked Satan about Job, Satan sarcastically responded that Job had every reason to serve God, because God had put a hedge of protection around him.
- ❖ So, God moved the hedge and allowed Satan to take everything Job had.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Job 1:1, 6-12

- ❖ Satan took all of Job's livestock and killed all of his servants, except one messenger from each site; then he killed all of Job's children.
- ❖ The second time God asked Satan "Have you considered My servant Job?" came after Satan's all-out assault on Job (2:3).
- ❖ There are a lot of people who have turned their backs on God over a lot less adversity—and a lot less blessings—than Job received.
- ❖ But hopefully this word from the Lord is prompting this prayer in your heart: "God, whether in good times or in bad, I want to live to make You proud, so You can brag on me in the assembly of the heavenly hosts!"
- ❖ Pleasing God in every aspect of our lives should be our default desire, our greatest aspiration and goal.
- ❖ This has got to be personal. It demands that we actually seek the mind of God every day for His approval of every thought, word, action or inaction. It demands that we realize that every moment of every day, God's eyes are upon us.
- ❖ We do nothing that is hidden from Him. But we shouldn't do right simply because we know God is watching us. That's not the kind of thought process that would make Him brag about us.
- ❖ It's impossible to serve God in the way that pleases Him simply out of duty and obligation.
- ❖ He is looking for people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth from a place of deep love for Him. That's the kind of heart and attitude that makes Him proud and gives Him bragging rights.
- ❖ Let us remind ourselves of the main point one more time. It really is irrelevant whether or not you are going through good times or bad times. The whole purpose of our lives continues to be to give glory to God. And He is glorified through the lives we live in obedience to His word.
- ❖ And so, our prayer is very simple. "Lord, I want to give You bragging rights in the spirit world based on the way I live my life right here on Earth."

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you ever had a Job-like experience in your life or know of someone who has? What was taken from you, how did you persevere, and what blessings did you receive when you emerged on the other side?
2. What scriptures help in such situations?
3. Take time to pray the prayer located in the lesson/prayer box.

PRAYER TIME

"Lord God, help us to live the way You want us to live, so You can be proud to brag on us as Your children." In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: Name one thing you are proud of (a talent, a possession, etc.). What makes you proud of this attribute/item?

**Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

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To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
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I want to live the way You want me to live,
I want to give until there's just no more to give
I want to love, love till there's just no more love
But I could never, never out-love the Lord



FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MARCH 7, 2021


S A N C T U A R Y
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

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Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*Then the LORD said to Satan,
"Have you considered My servant
Job, that there is none like him on
the earth, a blameless and upright
man, one who fears God and
shuns evil?"*
Job 1:8 NKJV

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