

**FINISHING STRONG; GOING THE
DISTANCE FOR YOUR FAMILY**

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CHAPTER 5

THE STATUS BROTHERS AND THEIR NOT-QUITE- RIGHT FIRST COUSIN, PRIDE

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CHAPTER 5 OUTLINE

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INTRODUCTION

- “Success is a shining city. A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. We dream of it as children. We strive for it through our adult lives, and we suffer melancholy at old age if we have not reached it. For success is the place of happiness, and the anxieties we suffer at the thought of not arriving there gives us ulcers, heart attacks and nervous disorders. If our reach exceeds our grasp and we fail to achieve what we want, life seems meaningless and we feel emotionally dead in our culture”Anthony Campolo
- Our focus today is on the character UZZIAH, of the tribe of Judah, who in his hey day by today's standards would be adjudged successful. We will consider his roots, reasons for his fall - in particular, pride - , symptoms of pride and the fallout from it.

OUTLINE I:

SUCCESS: I. POWER II. PRIVILEGE III. WEALTH

- Success going by worldly standards is defined as “attaining cultural goals that are sure to elevate one’s *perceived* importance in that culture”. In that context, successful people experience elevation in at least one of three areas: power, privilege and wealth.
- **POWER:** This is defined as having commands obeyed and wishes granted. Greater status, greater clout.
- **PRIVILEGE:** This is enjoying special rights or favours, which we all like. It is also greater status as you enjoy what most others do not.
- **WEALTH:** This is accumulating financial reserves and securities. With wealth, you are made to feel elevated in status

OUTLINE 2: UZZIAH'S ROOTS

- King Uzziah's father was Amaziah, King of Judah who reigned for 29 years. His mother was Jechiliah, who was from Jerusalem.
- Uzziah was the tenth King of Judah after Solomon and began his reign at the age of 16.
- He reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years.
- He started out right in the sight of the Lord despite being a youth and continued to seek God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of the Lord. As long as he did that, God prospered him. 2 Chronicles 26: 5.
- He had a lot of potential.
- Uzziah had many accomplishments. – 2 Chronicles 26: 2, 6-15
- His fame spread far as a result of his accomplishments *until he was strong'*. (His heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God – verse 16)

OUTLINE 3: THREE REASONS FOR UZZIAH'S FALL

- **1. FOCUS ON EXTERNAL RATHER THAN ETERNAL:** He became so busy focusing on his duties at the expense of his relationship with God. Exodus 20:5
- **2. UZZIAH'S CHARACTER FELL SHORT OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** He spent his life chasing external accomplishments rather than internal character
- **3. TRIPPED BY HIS SUCCESS:** He was tripped up by his success. Success is like ice, - beautiful, smooth, clean and cool. However, few people can walk safely on it without slipping and falling. Proverbs 30:7-9

OUTLINE 4: PRIDE AND SYMPTOMS OF IT

- Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18
- God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. James 4:6
- Two Kinds of Pride : a. The right kind b. The wrong kind
- Everyone struggles with pride. Beware, pride is subtle. Pride gradually blinds us. It is spiritual cancer; it eats the very possibility of love or contentment, or even common sense'- C.S Lewis. -1 Corinthians 10:12
- Uzziah's heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God, for he entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense – 2 Chronicles 26:16

OUTLINE 4 CONTD.

SYMPTOMS OF PRIDE

- **1. ARROGANCE:** This is defined as being haughty, which means 'high'. When we think too highly of ourselves, we get haughty. When we convince ourselves we deserve certain perks and privileges, we are arrogant.
- **2. AVERSION TO ACCOUNTABILITY** – verses 17-18: Azariah the priest and 80 priests of the Lord corrected Uzziah to no avail. Instead he became enraged – verse 19. Being accountable is a willingness to explain your actions and we all need the discipline at various times of our lives.

OUTLINE 5: WHAT IF.....?

-Uzziah had come to his senses and asked for God's forgiveness and repented of his sin?
- He would most likely have walked out of the temple whole and as a better man.

OUTLINE 6: THE FALLOUT FROM UZZIAH'S PRIDE

- **1.** He was struck with leprosy for the rest of his life. 2 Chronicles 26: 19,21
- **2.** He lived in quarantine for the rest of his life, lonely and with no special privileges.
- **3.** He was cut off from the temple for the rest of his life
- **4.** Uzziah was buried near the kings, but not with them. – verse 23. Even in death, his memory was dishonoured.

OUTLINE 7: TWO LESSONS TO PONDER

- **1. EXTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS CAN BE FALSE INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:** Let us stop judging by appearance, evaluating by first impression and concluding on the basis of outward appearance. – 1 Samuel 16:7
- **2. BEWARE OF SPIRITUAL INDIFFERENCE:** Spiritual indifference comes ahead of other problems, such as blindness to spiritual things and arrogance and presumption. Spiritual indifference is the gradual cooling of your spiritual temperature; a fading of your love for the Lord Jesus. It is silent and subtle as a slow-moving shadow.
- IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK AND SEEK THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART. – Romans 12:11



Thank you