

## A Examples of pride

### ❖ Lucifer

- If we speak of pride, we must speak of the one in whom this feeling first arose: Lucifer. He decided not to be content with his position, but wanted to ascend to a higher one. In time, he desired to be so exalted that he longed to occupy the very throne of God ( Isaiah 14:12-14).
- We have “inherited” the desire to do whatever pleases us, to possess whatever we want, and to gain positions that allow us to acquire fame or wealth. That is what the world offers us! (1 John 2:16).
- But not all aspiration is pride. The satisfaction derived from a child's success, or personal ambition, is not necessarily unhealthy pride.
- The important thing to remember is that our possessions, skills, and achievements do not determine our worth. Pride consists of not giving God the glory for what He does in our lives.

### ❖ The disciples of Jesus

- They had spent more than three years with Jesus. He had just washed their feet and told them about His blood shed for all. Yet, as they ate dinner, their conversation had nothing to do with all this: which of them was the greatest? ( Luke 22:24).
- Their pride led them to believe they deserved the top spot. They failed to grasp the gravity of their feelings. They were pushing God away from their hearts because of their pride.
- Jesus got straight to the point: “I am among you as one who serves” ( Luke 22:27). In other words: if you want to be great like your Master, serve others.
- Our pride tells us that we deserve to be served by others (we are better than them). We need God's grace to become humble servants.

## B Examples of humility

### ❖ The tax collector

- A Pharisee was telling God about the good works he did and the merits he had before Heaven. But Jesus said that he “prayed to himself,” and not to God ( Luke 18:11-12). A perfect example of pride.
- A tax collector was asking God for help, for he was a sinner ( Luke 18:13). By humbly presenting himself before God, he “went down to his house justified,” because “whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” ( Luke 18:14).
- True humility begins when we acknowledge our sin and ask for Christ's help. Then...
  - (1) We will not look upon others as inferior ( Phil . 2:3)
  - (2) We will not seek public recognition ( Lk . 14:7-11)
  - (3) We will let others give us the recognition (Pr. 27:2)
  - (4) We will receive God's grace ( James 4:6)
  - (5) We will impart that grace to others (1 Peter 4:10)

### ❖ Moses

- Moses was trained to be the next Pharaoh of Egypt. He was a great strategist and had great intellectual capacity ( Acts 7:22). At the age of 40, he decided to put all this aside and join his people ( Hebrews 11:24-25).
- He was the liberator! His mighty arm would free his brothers! A grave mistake. God could not use him while he harbored such pride.
- Another 40 years in communion with God in the desert made him a very humble man (Num. 12:3). Now he could be used by God to send plagues; cross the sea; receive the ten commandments; speak directly with God; strike the rock... He was even able to humbly accept the punishment for his act of pride, taking credit for what he did (Num. 20:10-12).
- The example of Moses shows us that humility does not arise spontaneously in us, but we must ask God to imbue us with it every day.

### ❖ Jesus, the perfect example

- No one in this world has ever had—nor will ever have—the greatness that Jesus possessed before his incarnation. Yet he renounced everything out of love for us. Faced with such humiliation, everything we have, everything we are, or everything we could ever become pales in comparison.
- Jesus renounced Heaven to die for humanity in the hope that we would understand his act of grace and respond to his invitation to a relationship with him ( Phil . 2:5-8). He is, without a doubt, the perfect example of humility.
- Following His example, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” ( Phil . 2:3-4).