

# Sermon Study Guide



## Issues of the Heart #1: PRIDE

June 6, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

*In this 3-part sermon series, we look into the book of Obadiah to see how catastrophic the consequences can be when issues of the heart aren't dealt with.*

### Reflect

Why and how do people put on a facade or try to pretend to be someone else instead of accepting who they are or what they are dealing with?

### Read and Discuss

#### Scripture

Obadiah 1-9

#### Discussion Questions

It is easy to fake your way through life, either as a Christian or not, because no one can see into your heart. Destructive issues in the heart need to be identified and dealt with, otherwise the consequences can be catastrophic as illustrated through the Kingdom of Edom. Read Obadiah verses 1-9.

1. **Background (v. 1-2).** Three issues of the heart permeated the kingdom of Edom. Who were the Edomites? How did the Edomites treat the Israelites? Why would God judge the Edomites? Why is pride such a big problem not only for them, but for us as well? How does pride get to all of us?
2. Three sources of pride caused the downfall of Edom:
  - a. **Security of self and accomplishments (v. 3-4).** Why did the Edomites pride themselves in the security of their homes and in themselves? Who are the people who pride themselves on being self-sufficient? Are they untouchable by God? How could their pride bring them down? What should you do so that you will not fall into the sin of pride?
  - b. **Security of wealth and resources (v. 5-7).** Why should the Edomites (and you) not be

prideful of wealth and resources? Why are people of wealth still insecure in spite of what they have? Why is it not safe to rely on friendship that comes from wealth? How is the love of money, not money itself, the source of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10)? How can this issue of the heart be dealt with?

- c. **Security of intelligence and abilities (v. 8-9).** Why shouldn't the Edomites--nor you--pride yourself with your intelligence and fame? Why do you think smart people often fail to acknowledge that they, too, need help? What is the true source of wisdom? Do you believe that apart from God, you can do nothing? Why?

### Respond

**In Walk:** The consequence of a prideful life is the catastrophic discipline of God. God humbles the proud. *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).*

Does your pride and reliance on something else keep you from the enabling the work of the Lord in your life? If so, how should you deal with it?

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You so much for the reminder that pride keeps me away from You. My security may lie on myself: my accomplishments, wealth, intelligence, and abilities. Lord, help me to rely on You instead of relying on these things. May You help me to walk humbly before You and to always acknowledge that I need You in my life and to rely on You in spite of the many blessings that You have already given to me. May I always trust the source of these blessings, that is You, instead of my own abilities. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.