



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

February 14, 2024



Photo: Our Daily Bread

BROUGHT LOW

Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.

Proverbs 29:23

READ Proverbs 29:18-27

Pride precedes and often leads to humiliation—something a man in Norway found out. Not even dressed in running clothes, the individual arrogantly challenged Karsten Warholm—the world record holder in the 400-meter hurdles—to a race. Warholm, training in an indoor public facility, obliged the challenger and left him in his dust. At the finish line, the two-time world champion smiled when the man insisted that he'd had a bad start and wanted to race again!

In Proverbs 29:23 we read, "Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor." God's dealings with the proud is one of Solomon's favorite themes in the book (11:2; 16:18; 18:12). The word *pride* or *haughty* in these verses means "swelling" or "puffed up"—taking credit for what rightfully belongs to God. When we're filled with pride, we think more highly of ourselves than we should. Jesus once said, "Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Matthew 23:12). Both He and Solomon direct us to pursue humility and lowliness. This isn't false modesty, but rightsizing oneself and acknowledging that all that we have comes from God. It's being wise and not saying things arrogantly "in haste" (Proverbs 29:20).

Let's ask God to give us the heart and wisdom to humble ourselves to honor Him and avoid humiliation.

By **Marvin Williams**

PRAY & REFLECT

Dear God, remind me that humility is the pathway to honor in Your sight. Amen

When have you experienced humility that brought honor? How can you humble yourself before God?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Proverbs 29:18-27 comes from a five-chapter section that begins with 25:1. That introductory verse says, "These are more proverbs of Solomon, compiled by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah." Who were "the men of Hezekiah"? They were likely his scribes, and these proverbs were collected by them more than two hundred years after the death of King Solomon. Hezekiah had a reputation as a good and God-fearing king, and he was keenly interested in seeing the wisdom of his ancestor preserved and promulgated.

Proverbs 29:18 may be the most well-known proverb from today's reading. The word *revelation* is rendered as "vision," "prophecy," or "prophetic vision" in other translations. The Hebrew word is *khazon*, which means "a revelation, a message from God." – By

Tim Gustafson

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