

A LIVING FAITH CLASSROOM LESSON about The Tower of Babel

Virtue: Obedience and Humility

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."



⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

The Tower of Babel

Today's story is about humility and obedience. The opposite of humility is pride, which is when you think you are better than someone else. God asks that we obey His commandments and be humble. When we are not humble and we think we are better than others we also start to think we do not need God and that we can handle things on our own.

The thing is, we ALWAYS need God. He made us so that we would need Him. He wants us to depend on Him, ask Him for help, and obey Him. If we think that we have everything figured out and that we know it all, then we are really going our own way and turning away from God.

Just think about the last time you disobeyed your parents or you weren't nice to a friend. You put your thoughts and feelings first and didn't care about how the other person felt. That is not being humble or obeying God's teachings.

In this story you'll see how God handles disobedience and how badly He wants people to be humble. It all started with a King named Nimrod.

Everything was going great. Everyone in the whole world spoke the same language. Some of the people ended up living in a place called Babylonia.

Then King Nimrod was not a humble man. He wanted to be famous so that everyone would know him and how great he was. He convinced the people that lived in Babylonia that they, too, could be great if they built a tower that went all the way to heaven.

So the people went to work making bricks for the Tower of Babel. It was hard work but the people wanted everyone to know that they were the ones who made the tower that reached heaven, so they just worked that much harder.

The people also convinced themselves that by building the tower that would stay united. Since they already spoke the same language, now they would be building the tower together. Their pride had taken over and all they were thinking about was that they would be known all over the world for building the biggest and best tower ever.

God could see what was happening all along. He decided to come down to earth and see the tower the people were building. God could tell the people's hearts were more focused on themselves and the tower than on Him and obeying his teachings. He was very disappointed and angry with them.

God said, "I see that the people think they can do anything because they all speak the same language. They have already begun to turn away and disobey me and soon there won't be anything good left, all they'll do is sin. I will mix up their language so they won't understand each other, this way they won't be able to work together to sin against me."

After God said this, the people could no longer understand each other. It seemed like they were *babbling* and making funny noises. All the people suddenly spoke different languages, some spoke French, some Spanish, others Chinese, plus many other languages. They were very confused.

This was the beginning of the languages. Imagine what would have happened if the people didn't try to build the tower in the first place and they focused on God instead. Maybe we would all speak the same language today!

From there the Lord scattered the people all over the whole earth.

It's interesting because when the people starting building the tower of Babel, Babel meant "gateway to God" but after God mixed up their language it meant "confusion". Even the word babble that we use today is said to come from that day when everyone was babbling with confusion.

So you can see how much God dislikes pride and people who are not humble. The people could have done amazing things for God when they all spoke the same language, and they could have been unified that way. Instead they decided to do something silly and build a big tower just so other people would notice them and call them great.

The opposite of pride is humility, or to be humble. The way you can be humble is by realizing that EVERYONE (poor people, people with disabilities, people of different races, etc.) is special. Each of us might be good at some things, but you can be sure that each person is special at something that you're not.

If you want to be humble remember to listen to your parents and those in authority, be kind to others instead of putting them down, and read your Bible and pray. By doing these things you're not just focusing on yourself.

After all pride just causes a lot of trouble!