



Pastor Derrick Shields “The Shift: Pride to Praise” 4/18/2021

Key Verses:

- *Genesis 11:1-9*

Key Thoughts:

- The goal of this series is to rethink and understand (1) God's mission in the world better, (2) our call as a church within his mission and (3) our roles as individuals within that call.
- In the beginning, God wanted the garden to extend to the entire earth. In Genesis 9, God tells Noah the same that he told Adam, “be fruitful and multiply”.
- God always wanted to move out, but they'd turned inward to focus on what was best for them. So, the act of them attempting to stay together was an act of disobedience.
- God always pushes his people outward to multiply towards sending and giving. It's the pride in us that looks inward to build security and our own glory.
- They wanted three things: a city (a home or place), a tower (significance) and a great name (greatness). The irony of this is that God had already given them all of this in the garden. They had a home in the garden and significance by being children of a king.
- Pride is trying to find something outside of what God has given already. It's rooted in a mindset of my will, my strength and my glory. We can act the same way. We want to feel safe; we want a sense of belonging, significance and recognition.
- In this story, the people were looking for significance in the wrong place. They were afraid of being scattered over the whole earth, but that was exactly what God wanted.
- In verse 7, it says that God came down to them. They wanted to build a tower to God, but we can't do enough to build up to God, he has to come down to meet us.
- We're created in God's image, so we have the ability to create too. The importance is that we are aware of pride so that we don't start to build things only for ourselves. We have a choice whether we build towers of pride or towers of praise.
- We see God's mercy in this story because he didn't squash them here, he stops them from going down the wrong road and redirects them.
- The good news is that God sticks to his plan. In Genesis 12, we see God call Abram. God starts to build his own tower with an old man. And in Revelation 5, we see all the people of the world brought back to God, showing that God is faithful to his original plan.

Discussion Questions:

- Genesis 11 is a story of human plans redirected for God's plan. When was a time when your life was redirected? How did/do you see God working in that redirection?
- In what areas of your life can you recognize that you're building a tower of pride (for your glory and significance)? How can you shift to building a tower of praise (for God's plan and glory)?



- Pastor Derrick talked about how in verse 7, God came down to them and the significance of God coming to us because we can't do enough work to get to him. How does this verse impact your relationship with God?