



Knot in your Rope

2 Samuel 24: 10-14

Suggested Illustration: Use a roping dummy and a lariat. While you are speaking, use the rope at various times as is appropriate to the lesson. Before class let some of the students throw rope and you can instruct others on how to hold/throw a lariat. Perhaps, have someone else come in before class and do a few illustrations during the introduction; then let them step out once you start the points.



Introduction

When you are first learning to rope, you try to get the technique right, but the rope gets tangled up in knots. Sometimes you knock off your hat; sometimes the rope ends up over your own head; or sometimes you get all tangled up in the rope.

[Here I have an old rope I bring out that has all kinds of knots in it]. Now if I try to use this rope to throw a loop, will I have very much success? No, this won't work, so I will just stick with the better rope here, the one without the knots in it.

With time you get the hang of it and start hitting the jake steer instead of yourself. Then you get better and better because of your constant practice.

This is the time for caution! Watch out! As you get better at doing something, then you are tempted to get proud. We all have a sin nature and pride is a temptation to all of us.

A couple of our friends Charity and Grace Hawkins went to the Vegas World Finals Rodeo a few years back. Charity won first in her age group [Dummy Roping] and her sister, Grace tied for second in her age group.

For several years we had them come into our Wrangler Church to show-off their skills; assist in teaching skills; and to give their personal testimonies. They are some of the very best ropers in the world! Do you think that they are proud of what they accomplished? Sure.

Do you think that they are prideful and go around bragging on themselves? NO! They don't and so we were able to invite them in to be a good testimony for the Lord Jesus.

Something you need to remember though is this:

It is harder to control your pride than it is to become a world champion roper.

Our friends, the Hawkins girls, worked several hours a day to become good ropers, but controlling our pride is something that we have to work on all day long everyday of our lives.

King David in [2 Samuel 24](#) is an excellent example of a well-meaning, godly person, that let pride get the best of him and the results were catastrophic for the people around him.

Chosen by God

[2 Samuel 24:10](#) And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people.

King David got a knot in his rope! He dropped his guard and let pride get out of control.

[2 Samuel 24:11-14](#)

For when David was up in the morning, the word of the Lord came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

Go and say unto David, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

King David was chosen by God to serve as King of Israel. He had been blessed from his young teen years on up. The first king, Saul, was chosen by the people, but David was chosen by God.

It would be easy to get full of pride if you knew that God had picked you out of the billions of people on earth to do a mighty job for him.

Thing is, God **HAS** a job that He wants you to do in this world and **only you** can do it.

But, He cannot bless what you do if you let your pride get out of control.

Staying Humble

King David wanted to stay humble. David knew his power and authority came from God. He was not responsible for being chosen to do this job.

If you can always remember this, then your pride will not get out of control. The problem is that we begin to think that our skills and our work have a lot to do with our success. When that happens you'd better watch out.

Pride puts a Knot in your Rope

King David let his pride problem get a big knot in his rope. David wanted to know how many people HE ruled over.

When I read earlier verses, I see that King David was instructed by God to NEVER take a census [count the nation of Israel]. When David's pride took control, he was warned by Joab, his

right hand man, but David was too full of pride at this time to listen to anyone; INCLUDING GOD.

Now King David has a very hard choice to make. **David knows that many other people will suffer because of his pride.**

I want you to learn, also, that **your pride problem will not only mess up your life, but it will also hurt other people as well.**

Conclusion:

As a born-again Christian, you have the Holy Spirit to help you and bring you under conviction before pride or other sins take control.

However, if you are not saved/born-again then your behavior is dependent on your own will power.

Present Salvation Here.