

ENTITLED

DAY 1

A CULTURE OF ENTITLEMENT assumes someone owes us something.

It's an attitude and perspective that believes:

"It's about ME." "I shouldn't have to struggle." "I should be entertained."

"I shouldn't have to wait." "If there's a set-back or failure, it's not my fault."

"It's not fair." "I'm owed certain things in life." "I deserve _____."

"I work harder." "My job is more difficult/more important."

"I should be served... and the lesser people should do the serving."

READ Genesis 3:1-13. **RE-READ** the description above.

What attitudes, perspectives, and/or beliefs of entitlement do you see in these scriptures?

PRAY: *Father, open my heart and eyes today to notice the attitude of entitlement within my culture, my family, and most importantly, my own heart.*

DAY 2

READ the description of **A CULTURE OF ENTITLEMENT** from Day 1.

READ 2 Samuel 11:1-4.

What do these verses say about who would go to war in the spring?

As the King, David should have been with his men during battle.

What entitlement attitude or belief may have caused David to stay in Jerusalem? How does David's attitude of entitlement unfold with Bathsheba?

READ 2 Samuel 11:14-15.

Ultimately a sense of entitlement leads us to believe that we're more valuable/important/of more worth, than everyone else.

FOCUS today on entitlement attitudes. *In your own life, where do you see them?* **LOOK** for the entitlement subtleties which go unnoticed or have become cultural norms. **IDENTIFY** three examples of entitlement attitudes/beliefs in your own life this week.

DAY 3

READ Luke 15:11-12 and 25-30.

Both sons exhibited entitlement attitudes. *What entitlement attitude do you see in the younger son? In the older son? What different attitudes, perspectives, and/or beliefs feed the sense of entitlement in the younger son? In the older brother? What do both of their attitudes have in common?*

We may see entitlement subtleties in our own attitudes whenever we have to wait in line, follow societal rules (*which we usually view as being for everyone else to follow*).

Whenever you become frustrated or angry, ask yourself, *"In what is my attitude rooted? When you're trying to justify an attitude, belief or behavior, ask yourself, "What entitlement perspective is feeding it?" What sense of personal entitlement causes you to be critical of someone else's success?"*

DAY 4 and 5

We may never say these things out loud, but upon an honest and prayerful consideration, we find that our sense of entitlement finds its source in one or more of these attitudes. **TAKE** time to pray through the following list.

SOURCES OF ENTITLEMENT

I'm special.

I'm smarter.

I work harder.

I've suffered more.

Everything I do (job, call, vision, ministry) is more important.

I'm from _____.

My family is _____.

I have more _____.
(education, money, responsibility, influence, etc.)

What entitlement attitudes did you discover in your own life this week? Which of the sources of entitlement feeds those attitudes?

CONTINUE to identify your own entitlement attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs. **ASK** the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you awareness and understanding. *Do you notice any patterns in your thinking? Do you find that specific situations feed a sense of entitlement? If so, what do you think causes this?* **TAKE** some time at the end of the week to journal what you've discovered.

READ Philippians 2:3-4 and Luke 22:27.

PRAY: *Father, from the beginning with the fall of man to my own heart today, all of humanity struggles with the "It's about ME" entitlement issue. Forgive me. Help me root out the entitlement attitudes I've come to accept in my heart and mind. Guard my heart from the deception of believing that this is only for others, not for me. Allow me to become aware of my entitlement attitudes. Help me to turn away from them and toward humility and service. Holy Spirit, don't let me walk away from Your Word without being changed.*

How does this same sense of entitlement in Adam, Eve, and King David translate to our lives today?