

FIRST CALL

THE CALL

LAST CALL

RED LETTER WARNINGS #1

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27 NIV

WHEN STRONG WORDS ARE USED ...

STRONG _____.

STRONG _____.

STRONG _____.

STRONG _____.

“Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to heed a warning.” Ecclesiastes 4:13 NIV

THE WARNING AGAINST SELF SUFFICIENCY

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5 NIV

SELF SUFFICIENCY _____.

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

Daniel 4:28-32 NIV

You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, “You did not make me” Can the pot say to the potter, “You know nothing”? Isaiah 29:16 NIV

SELF SUFFICIENCY _____.

“The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.” Proverbs 12:15 NIV

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.” 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 NIV

SELF SUFFICIENCY _____.

“Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

Deuteronomy 8:11-14 NIV

“Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth who have carried out His ordinances; seek righteousness, seek humility.” Zechariah 2:3 NASB

SELF SUFFICIENCY _____.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” John 15:1-4

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:1-8 NIV

SELF SUFFICIENCY _____.

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before stumbling.” Proverbs 16:18 NASB

“But God drags away the mighty by his power; though they become established, they have no assurance of life. He may let them rest in a feeling of security, but his eyes are on their ways. For a little while they are exalted, and then they are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; they are cut off like heads of grain.” Job 24:22-24 NIV

SELF SUFFICIENCY _____.

“If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn’t care? The proverb has it that “he’s a fiercely jealous lover.” And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you’ll find. It’s common knowledge that “God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble.” James 4:4-6 MSG

THE ONLY RESPONSE

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.” 1 Peter 5:6-9 NASB

DISCUSSION

Can you think of a time when you failed to heed a warning from God, not “checked-in” with him, acted self-sufficiently, and paid a price personally?

Why do you believe Jesus speaks so forcefully to his disciples on this topic of self-sufficiency vs God-dependency?

Which consequence of self-sufficiency in today’s study is speaks into you and your life? Why?

What is a practical way you can live God-dependently today?

