

A Sober Evaluation?

- *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Rom. 12:3*
- How can we accomplish this?
- How do we avoid overconfidence?
- How can we soberly evaluate ourselves?
- Without an objective standard it is impossible.

Overconfidence is Dangerous

- Then Jesus said to them, "**All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night**, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 33 **Peter answered** and said to Him, "**Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.**" 34 Jesus said to him, "**Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**" 35 Peter said to Him, "**Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!**" **And so said all the disciples.**
Mt. 26:31-35

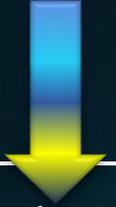
Subjective vs Objective

- **Subjective** Using myself (subject)
- *O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. Jer. 10:23 Without a standard outside of ourselves we will never know until it is too late, as Peter / apostles*
- **Objective** – Outside of self (object)
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-7*
- If Peter / apostles had used Jesus as their standard they could have taken steps to avoid failure

Subjective Thinking

- Plagues most of us as children and some of us our entire life.
- I am healthy ... but I might be terminally ill
- I am fast/strong ... but not as much as I think
- I am intelligent ... but I might fail the test
- I am competent ... but I can still fail
- I can do that ... but sometimes I can't
- We need to avoid subjective thinking. It is dangerous and will lead to failure.

Objective Thinking

- I Think... But I need  to be certain
 - I am healthy Physical Exam
 - I am fast/strong A Race
 - I am intelligent Take a Test
 - I am competent Evaluation
 - I can do that Do it first
-
- With an objective standard, we no longer think more highly than we ought to think.

Objective Instruments

- I Think... But I need  to be sure
- I am not overweight A Scale
- It is not long enough A Ruler
- I am competent A Test
- I am healthy Physical
- I am right with God Scripture

God Has Done This For Each of Us

- *O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. Ps 139:1-6*
- God has been assessing and sizing up our capabilities and abilities and knows our potential

God Knows Our Capabilities

- Subjective Thinking Forbidden:
- *Therefore let **him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.***
- God knows our limits... wrote the Scriptures to give us an objective standard to test ourselves.
- *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.** 1 Cor 10:12-13*

God has Tested, Assessed and Knows

- *I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. 1Chr. 29:17*
- *The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts. Pr. 17:3*
- *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. Jer. 17:9-10*

Do We Want to Know Objectively?

- *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps. 139:23-24*

- *The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven; his eyes behold, his eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Ps. 11:4-5*

- In both the OT and in the NT, God clearly revealed how He tests us so we can know His assessment of us.

How God Tested Israel

- *And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.*
- *3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Deut. 8:2-4*

God Allowed Duress to Test

- Three days into the wilderness, God made no provision for water. Then at Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. God knew they needed it but tested them:
- *And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. **And there He tested them,** Ex 15:24-25*
- Remember this the next time adversity strikes...

How God Tested Israel

- *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. Ex 16:4*
- God gave a command in such way as to measure and weigh. Just like He had done with Abraham:
- *Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." Gen. 22:1-2*
God didn't want Isaac, He wanted Abraham

How God Tested Israel

- *'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'" 17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. 18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Ex 16:16-18*
- *I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: Phil. 4:11-12*
- *And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 1Tim. 6:8-9*
- *Do We Pass?*

How God Tested Israel

- *And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." 20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. Ex 16:19-20*
- Another objective standard to weigh trust.
- Once again they failed.
- Before we judge them too harshly, are we doing any better?

On the Sixth day – Twice as Much

- *And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: Ex 16:22-25*
- *Now they are commanded to keep it until morning*
- *'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'" 24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.*

They Still Failed!

- *Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. 26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."*
- *27 Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.*
- *28 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?"*
Ex. 16:25-30
- **Difficult commands test obedience**

Interested in His Assessment?

- *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified. 2 Cor 13:5*
- We assess ourselves by God's commands.
- They are how He tests us and they are how we test ourselves.
- Any command we don't see the importance of and set aside has done exactly what God designed it to do. It has revealed our failure or our success depending upon what we do.

How God Tests Today

- *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*
- *These failed because of God's choice of commands*
- *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 1 Cor 1:26-31*
- *Those seeking to do everything are passing...*

How God Tests Today

- *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Mt 7:13-14*
- *15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits.*
- *21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Matt 7:15-16, 21*

Clear Objective Tests

- *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*
- *26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matt 7:24-27*