

**Intro:**

READ WLC Q&A 151:1. “From the persons offending”. In particular, by place or position of influence.

Main Point of Text: Jesus teaches that those who let pride of position cause those under them to sin are liable to be kept out of the kingdom of heaven and face a particularly humiliating eternity in hell.

Sermon Point: *Be humbled by your position.*

**Move 1: *Be mindful of the example you set before younger eyes.***

- LC: “if they be of riper age”: family, church, state: the elder sets the example for younger. Elihu rebukes Job’s friends: ... *Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.* (Job 32:7, 9)
- LC: “greater experience or grace”: 1 Kg. 11:4, 9: Solomon turned away in old age.

**Move 2: *Be mindful of the witness you give before the world for Jesus.***

LC: “eminent for”:

- “profession”: 1 Cor. 5:1: *It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles ...*
- “gifts”: Lk. 12:47-48: ... *that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes ... For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required ...*

**Move 3: *Be mindful of how your official service affects those under you.***

LC: “eminent for”:

- “place”: Social, political, employment status. Joseph always a good example.
- “office”: *The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.* (Jer. 2:8). Of all people, the ministers are immoral! 2 Sam. 12:7ff: Nathan to David: God’s anointed King! Fed. Head hurt family/kingdom.

**Move 4: *Be mindful of the influence you have on others.***

- LC: “guides to others”: Phil. 4:9: follow my example. Rom 2:17-24: called out hypocrisy.
- LC: “whose example is likely to be followed by others”: Gal. 2:11-14: Barnabas followed Peter’s bad example; he was influenced by the “circumcision” (feared them). Concern 1 with bad leadership, minimal reward: Mt. 5:19: *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* Concern 2, maximum punishment: Matthew 18:6-7:
  - Context, vss. 1-5: disciples asking who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus calls a child into their midst as their example: better be like/receive such if they want to get in and be great.
  - Vs. 6: don’t stubbornly cause children to sin in pride. In Greek, “of an ass” follows “millstone”.
  - Vs. 7: Don’t hold your children away from Jesus because you’re too proud to submit to His interest in them. Your humbling will be monumental. Actually, very low (vs. 6).

**Conclusion:**

*... take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak ... when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. (1 Cor. 8:9, 12).*

James 4:6; Philippians 2:5-9.

**Be humbled by your position.**