

# Cultures in Conflict

God's Response to the Proud

God **SEES** and **WARNS** the Proud vs. 1-9  
Sign #1 of Pride – Self-Provided **SECURITY** and **SAFETY**

God will bring the Proud **LOW** vs. 10-14  
Sign #2 of Pride – Taking personal **PLEASURE** in another's **CALAMITY**

**VIOLENCE** against people I should care about vs. 10

Violence = Scale from **UNFRIENDLINESS** to **MALICE**

Consequences = **SHAME** and **RESPONSE** from God

The **PROGRESSION** of violence vs. 11-14

1. Standing **ALOOF** while another is harmed vs. 11

**PASSIVE** Participation: 'You too were **as one of them**'

Either: malicious **UNCONCERN** or hostile **OPPOSITION**

2. **DELIGHTING** over another's misfortune vs. 12

**GLOATING** = looking upon with pleasure

**REJOICING** = a Heart filled with celebration

**BOASTING** = a flood of mocking words

3. Taking personal **GAIN** in another's disaster vs. 13

**ENTERING** = to lay hands on

**GLOATING** = looking over with pleasure

**LOOTING** = taking their wealth for oneself

4. Harming the **REFUGEES** in their escape vs. 14

Stand at the **CROSSROADS** = block their escape

**CUT DOWN** their fugitives = kill and rob them

**IMPRISON** their survivors = turn them back to the invaders

## Life Group Discussion Questions – May 1, 2022

**Obadiah 12** "You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble."

**DISCOVER** (read Obadiah 10-14)

1. What does it mean to spite someone? Have you ever gloated in your heart over someone else's misfortune(s)? Where do you see this kind of vindictiveness in our culture today?
2. Is it wrong to "mind our own business"? How can unconcern be deemed as malicious?
3. What is shame? How does shame or disgrace impact a family name? What's at stake?
4. In many sports today, there are rules against boasting. Why are these regulations in place?

**EXPLORE**

1. Compare Obadiah 11 to the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Identify the parallels and contrasts you see in the texts.
2. Make a list of the "should nots" in Obadiah vv. 12-14. Determine an explanation for each one in contemporary terms.
3. Proverb 17:5 says, "He who mocks the poor taunts his Maker; he who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished." How does a transgression against the poor become sin against God? (see Job 31:29-30)
4. In Obadiah v. 11, Edom "stood aloof." In v. 14, Edom "cuts down fugitives." How are these two attributes related? Have you, or someone you know, ever been aloof long enough only to find yourself/themselves cutting people down? Describe a time when you have observed this progression.
5. The human heart takes pleasure in the fall and distress of our enemies. What does God say about this? (see Matthew 5:43-48)

**EXPERIENCE**

1. We all have a tendency to see someone in need in Christian community, yet do little or nothing out of complacency (or maybe even out of spite). What kind of justifications do we conjure up in our hearts? How do you think God views this? How can we gain spiritual victory in this area?
2. You've discerned that a brother or sister in Christ is "under the rod of discipline." As such, they become an easy target (i.e. "They had it coming." ...or "It's because of their lack of faith."). Is this an appropriate time to back-off and watch your words? Explain.
3. Describe how a person's indifference can morph into aggressiveness. Where have you seen this inclination at a national level within America? Where have you noticed it at a global level?

**PRAY**

*Pray... Our Gracious God and Father, forgive me my tendency to relish the misfortunes of those who have spoken against me; forgive my pride. Show me how to love my enemies in the same way You loved me when I was Your enemy. Give me the grace to not only forgive my enemies but to bless them as well; that they might see You in me. In Jesus' name. Amen.*