



Humility

Matt VanCleave
February 5, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will not make furnace avoidance the goal of my life.
- I will stop asking God to deliver me from the furnace and instead to meet me in it.
- I will pray, "God, give me an opportunity to show my commitment to you."

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Resilient faith does not mean that our faith must simply endure, rather an aspect of forming a resilient faith is engaging in a process of reflection. Our resilient faith means forming a faith that allows us to reflect on and repent of aspects that may be drawing us away from God.

This is what we see in Daniel chapter 4. In this chapter, King Nebuchadnezzar was at home in his palace, content and prosperous. He had conquered large swaths of land and grown his city to be one of the greatest, he thought he was problem free. But God had different ideas.

God saw that the King was full of pride and so God launched Nebuchadnezzar into a very long and painful period. Although the King didn't know it, this season was a battle for his soul. One that couldn't be fought by his great armies or purchased with his extreme wealth, it was only conquerable by choice, for Jesus said, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

This week we are talking on the importance of rooting pride out of our lives and living with humility.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define 'humility'? Is Biblical humility different than cultural humility?
2. Why does God make such a big deal out of pride?
3. When has pride been destructive in your life? When have you seen pride be destructive in others lives?
4. In Daniel 4 we hear about King Nebuchadnezzar's pride, in 4:4 it says that he was content because of all the things he had. Do you think the King's outward success and possession of material goods led to his pride? Why is it easy to base our pride or self worth on gains and successes?
5. King Nebuchadnezzar's identity was rooted in his success, his pride rooted in his accomplishments. When he had a dream he naturally thought it was a prophecy for more gains rather than a dream about his destruction. Why do you think God used dreams to bring this reality of pride to Nebuchadnezzar? How does pride cloud our judgment?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. In the middle of Daniel 4 we find the character of Daniel interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. He spoke truth, even when the situation could have ended with his death. Do you have someone in your life like Daniel? Are you a Daniel to others?

7. Why is it important to have a person in your life who speaks truth to you? Why is it important for us to, at times, speak like a Daniel to others?

8. Does pride ever keep you from hearing truth from your Daniel? How is pride lethal to our relationship with God and with others?

9. What do you learn OR what warning do you gain as you reflect on the characters in this story?

10. What does it look like to lean into humility and away from pride this week?



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NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will find a Daniel in my life who will tell me the hard truth.
- I will ask a trusted friend to help me see my blindspots.
- I will look for interruptions as opportunities to serve God.
- I will renounce my sins.
- I will do what is right.
- I will be kind to the poor.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Daniel 4:1-27
- Psalm 31:23
- Psalm 101:5
- Proverbs 16:5
- James 4:6
- Jeremiah 22:15-16

Spiritual Practice of the Week

- Humility: we all have areas in our life that we place before God. Perhaps it is our own desires or ego, or perhaps it is a goal or a relationship. This week we are engaging with humility. Think through the thing that draws you away from God, and then each and every day pray that you humbly present whatever you are holding onto to God. By engaging in humility we can grow with God as we let go of things that are holding us back.

Prayer Request(s)

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