

Faith Under Fire

The Problem with Pride - Daniel 4: 1-37

Intro – What is the greatest sin? Have you considered Pride?

Daniel 4: 1-3 – The King is praising God.

- Chapter 4 is believed to be several years later after the events of chapter 3.
- Doxology – A form of worshiping God.

Daniel 4: 4-18 – The Search for an Interpreter and the Dream Revealed

- King Nebuchadnezzar tells the story in first person
- King Nebuchadnezzar was comfortable with his life. Kingdom had grown large and powerful.
- Dream caused him to feel afraid
- Finally turned to Daniel after others had failed to interpret his dream.
- Key Verse - Verse 9 “I know the spirit of the holy gods is in you...” (And in verse 18.)

The tree represents the Perfect Man.

Daniel 4: 19-27 – Daniel Interprets the Dream

- Story switches to 3rd person
- Daniel afraid to tell King Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of the Dream
- The king is the Tree and he will become like a wild animal for 7 years.
- The king will be restored when he acknowledges that Heaven rules over all the Kingdoms.
- Daniels advice admit your sin now and humble yourself.

Could King Nebuchadnezzar have changed the outcome if he had repented at that point?

Daniel 4: 28-37 – Dream Fulfilled

- 12 months later
- V. 30 – “Is not this the great Babylon I have built,... by my mighty powers and for the glory of my majesty?”
- Immediately he became like a wild animal.
- V. 34 – “Raised his eyes to Heaven.” And sanity was restored.
- V. 34 switches back to 1st person.
- The King was humbled and began to praise God.

Teaching Points from this Story

Definition of Pride: Self-worth exceeds its boundaries. Or another way to define the word is to say self-will is greater than God's will.

What can cause us to have pride?

1. Pride is deceptive

Blind Spots – Pride tends to live in our blind spots. Things that others can see in us, but we don't see ourselves.

Example: King Nebuchadnezzar when he looked out on what he had built.

Imagine your life is like a house with different rooms. Do you give God access to all the rooms?

2. Pride can separate us from God

Why would I consider Pride as one of the greatest sins?

Who are some people mentioned in scripture that experienced a downfall due to the sin of pride?

Pride causes us to compete against God.

3. God will Humble the Proud

How have you been humbled in your life? How did being humbled affect your faith?

4. Shame can lead us toward redemption. (restoration.) When we recognize our sins.

When is shame a negative emotion and when can it be a positive emotion?

5. Our Focus is to be on Jesus the "Perfect Man."

Phillipians 2: 6-8

"Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, ... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!