

## Devoted: Humble Worship

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Daniel 4:34-37

Read Daniel 4:34-37 together:

*At the end of the days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me. I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" At the same time, my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right, and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

- ? Can you think of someone or something that enjoyed fame for a short while?
- ? What do you think of when you hear or see "Where is he/she now?" stories?
- ? How long-lasting do you think the glory is for the majority of those who hold records from *The Guinness Book of World Records*?

Fame, like time, passes all too quickly. Accomplishments once thought to be life-changing are eventually forgotten.

**Context:**

Daniel Chapter 3 tells the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and God's victory over the fiery furnace. This appears to be a major turning point for Nebuchadnezzar.

- ? Read Daniel 3:28-4:3. Does Nebuchadnezzar seem genuine? What do you think of the accuracy of his doxology (praise to God)?
- ? Doesn't it sound like Nebuchadnezzar has come to worship God and God alone? Why?

Sadly, in the early portion of Daniel, we see God giving Nebuchadnezzar a stern warning about his pride and the price he will pay if he does not repent and bow the knee to the God of Heaven. In His patience, God waits an entire year for Nebuchadnezzar to repent.

So, the second dream of Nebuchadnezzar recorded in Daniel Chapter 4 is fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar is stripped of his glory, his kingdom, his reason, and his pride. For seven years he eats grass like a cow, living alone in the open like an animal. And, after seven years (exactly as God had foretold), Nebuchadnezzar regains his sanity, his glory, and his kingdom after bowing his knee to God. Verses 34-36 are Nebuchadnezzar's retelling of his submission to God and his subsequent restoration by God.

### **Content:**

True worship of God requires awe and humility. Nebuchadnezzar is no longer looking down on his kingdom; rather, he is looking up to the King of Heaven.

- ? *"For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation"* (v. 34). How does Nebuchadnezzar compare himself and his kingdom to that of God and His kingdom?
- ? How does Nebuchadnezzar now see himself and all of humanity in contrast to God?
- ? What does he have to say about God's control (sovereignty)?
- ? Why is it right that God be sovereign? What does Nebuchadnezzar claim of God (v. 37)?

Nebuchadnezzar now stands in awe of God. He finally sees himself in right comparison to God, and the natural, right response is awe and humility.

### **Application:**

The dream revealed to Nebuchadnezzar has been fulfilled, but only in part! The first four kingdoms of gold, silver, bronze, and iron have come and gone. But what about the stone that is never destroyed, and which destroys every prior kingdom? That stone represents another kingdom, yet to come, that is an eternal kingdom.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

Colossians 3: 16, 17

- ? What do you think worship in awe and humility looks like in the corporate church setting?
- ? How do you take advantage of the time you spend in the church's worship service?
- ? How can we, as a church, make the most of our time together?

### **Come to worship informed:**

- ? Do you truly know and worship the God of Heaven? We see in our observations of Nebuchadnezzar that it is possible to falsely worship without repentance and transformation.
- ? As you grow in knowledge of God, is your awe of Him and your humility before Him also increasing?

### **Come to worship expectant:**

- ? Do you come to church simply out of routine? Is it simply a task on your weekly list of to-dos?

? Do you come to church with intent? Do you look for opportunities to encourage and minister to others? How do you do this?

**Come to worship and be engaged:**

? How do you engage in worship within the corporate church setting?

? How do you engage both your heart and mind in worship? Or do you?

Pray that Berean will be a church of redeemed people who are in awe of God, who stand in humility before God, and who actively engage in worship of this great God together!