

### Go For It-Be Humble Daniel 4:19-37

A pundit once quipped, "Humility is like underwear—essential, but indecent if it shows!" The opposite of humility is pride, and Daniel 4 reveals it in spades. Nebuchadnezzar will learn (and then tell) about the greatest lesson God showed him in his long career—that He is able to humble those who walk in pride. So why not learn it the easy way? Listen carefully and apply these truths diligently-Go for it-Be Humble

#### PRIDE

- 1. One of the most <u>destructive</u> forces in the universe
  - 2. Pride goes before destruction (see Proverbs 16:18)
- 3. In 1971 there was a historic fight between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali; before the fight Ali was full of pride, he lost the fight

### PRIDE

4. Pride is the oldest sin in the universe and it shows no sign of weakening with age

C.S. Lewis called it the chief cause of misery

#### HUMILITY

- 1. After the eight-year event occurs,
  Nebuchadnezzar writes it down; he wants to let
  as many people as possible know
- 2. Nebuchadnezzar, in his own testimony said, "Those who walk in pride He is able to humble"

  Daniel 4:37
  - 3. Humble yourself (see 1 Peter 5:6)

#### REVELATION

- A. Daniel is astonished and troubled
  - 1. Appalled, emotionally agitated
- 2. Daniel knew what the dream meant instantly
  - 3. The most powerful man is going to lose his mind
- 4. Daniel had a <u>love</u> for Nebuchadnezzar; he wished that these things would not come upon him

# From Revelation to Confrontation

- B. Tree, a symbol of a powerful <u>ruler</u> or <u>nation</u>
  - 1. Isaiah 2
  - 2 .Ezekiel 17 and 31
    - 3. Hosea 14
    - 4. Zechariah 11

## From Revelation to Confrontation

C. The tree cut down and the stump left

- 1. Nebuchadnezzar will be cut down
  - 2. God will restore him

D. Daniel <u>reveals</u> and then he <u>confronts</u>

### The Confrontation

A. Reinhold Niebuhr said, "Man does not know himself truly except as he knows himself confronted by God"

B. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon"

Isaiah 55:7

# The Humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar

A. 12 months there was no change at all; why the delay?

#### **MERCY**

- B. Nebuchadnezzar walks in pride
  - C. The kingdom is departed from Nebuchadnezzar
    - D.A bizarre form of insanity

## The Restoration of Nebuchadnezzar

- A. Seven years later his understanding returns and he writes it all down
- B. Jesus said, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" Luke 14:11
  - C. Nebuchadnezzar humbles himself

## The Restoration of Nebuchadnezzar

- 1. Pride is one attitude God hates
- 2. God opposes the proud (see James 4:6)
  - 3. Disease is pride, the cure is <u>humility</u>

### How to Cultivate Humility

- 1. Prayer, depend upon God
- 2. Worship, focus on God; it's not about you
- 3. Encourage others, find someone you know, watch, study, and notice their traits
- 4. Service, serve others, and perform a task that is not in your job description

### How to Cultivate Humility

- D. The restoration began when Nebuchadnezzar looked up to God
- F. Dwight Moody said, "Be humble or stumble"
- G. Humble yourself before God and say, "I need You"

### TWO IMPORTANT LESSONS

God's judgment may be slow, but it is certain

God will go to any extreme, to show us that He

is Lord