



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

So far in our study of the book of Daniel, we have walked through the following life commitments: (1) I Will Live as an Exile, (2) I Will Not Be Defiled, (3) I Will Trust God for What I Need, (4) I Will Not Bow Down, (5) I Will Trust God in the Fire, and (6) I Will Not Take the Glory from God. Today, we move into the last part of chapter 4 and consider the 6th life commitment of our series: I Will Choose Humility.

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 4:34-37

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking back at your notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most from the sermon?
2. What does it mean to be a prideful person? Why is it so easy for pride to sneak into our lives?
3. How can pride show up and erode our relationships with others in the home, workplace, and church? Why does pride burn bridges rather than build them?

It shouldn't be lost on us that at the very center of the word "pride" is the letter "i," which is to say – "self" is at the center of our pride.

- Look what "I've" done.
- "I" can hardly believe how awesome "I" am at this job.
- How can anyone not see how hard "I" work to get things done in this house?
- "I" deserve this...
- Look at what "I" did to save the day – again.
- "I" guess "I'm" the only one who can see this is a bad idea.
- "I" get upset when "I'm" not getting what "I" want – when "I" want it.
- "I" can't believe "I'm" having to wait on them – again.
- "I" can't be bothered with this nonsense right now.

Note: Pride doesn't always appear overtly in our relationships; it can occur in passive-aggressive, condescending attitudes and actions.

4. What stands out about Nebuchadnezzar's testimony in Daniel 4:34-35 compared to what we see him say in Daniel 4:30? What would it sound like for Nebuchadnezzar's words in Daniel 4:30 to come from your mouth? Now, what about Nebuchadnezzar's words in Daniel 4:34-35?

It's easy to spot pride in others, but it can be challenging to see in ourselves. This question helps us think through what pride and humility sound like when they come out of our mouths.

5. We see Nebuchadnezzar transition from a man with a massive ego to a man who humbly expresses how great God's rule and reign are over the earth. Have you experienced a similar transition from pride to humility in your life? Why does this transition usually come about through a humbling experience?

We often talk in church about how God is able. He's able to heal, change lives, and step in and do a miracle. In Daniel 4, King Nebuchadnezzar gives us another example of the ability of God, and this one comes from experience: Those who walk in pride, God is able to humble. Again, remember who is saying this – the most powerful man in that region of the world! The man whom everybody else bowed down to, the man who had authority over everyone in the kingdom – God took him down.

6. Read Daniel 4:36-37. What stands out to you most about God's graciousness to Nebuchadnezzar? Similarly, when you look back over your life, what reasons do you have to "extol and honor the King of heaven" for what He has done?

The more you grow in your faith, the more you'll experience the reality of this statement: I was wrong; God was right. The more you grow in your faith, the more you'll reflect on your life and say that statement. Nebuchadnezzar went from a life that was all about praising himself to having a testimony that honored the Lord as "the King of Heaven." You might say the little "k" king recognized the big "K" King.

7. Read James 4:10 and 1 Peter 5:5-6. What does it mean to "choose" humility? What three steps were we to take in the sermon when choosing humility?

Step 1 – Give God the glory

- Deflect to give God praise whenever the opportunity arises

Step 2 – Lift others

- Nobody accomplishes anything alone – other people are always key

Step 3 – Stay low

- Start your day with dependence, continue living in dependence, and finish the day with dependence upon God.
- What does that look like? Lord, I need you today. I can't do this on my own. Lord, I'm about to enter this meeting; guide my thoughts and words. Lord, as I lay down tonight, I give you all my worries.

8. Has there been a relationship in your life strained by your pridefulness? Who might the Lord be calling you to reconcile with this week?

John Stott, "At every step of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend."