

SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN

- Previously in Daniel:
 - King Nebuchadnezzar creates a gold statue of himself and tells all to worship it.
 - Three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) defy the king and stand on their devotion and loyalty to their King, God.
 - They are thrown into a fiery furnace but did not burn up because there was a 4th man in the fire, God himself!
 - We see in the beginning of the chapter we are reading today that the King has a change of heart; he says God is pretty cool.
 - But after having a dream he goes to Daniel again and he interprets it:
 - If the King does not humble himself he will indeed be humbled by God...

Daniel 4:27-33

- ²⁷“King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.” ²⁸“But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. ³⁰As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.’ ³¹“While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. ³²You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.’ ³³“That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles’ feathers and his nails were like birds’ claws.

PRAY

Illustration // Share a story of a time you thought you were at the top but you got knocked down a few pegs, you were humbled.

- In life, if we are not careful we can be knocked down when we think we are all that, when we grow a prideful complex.
- Pride is a dangerous and tricky thing that can keep us from God. Pride is such a sneaky and tricky thing that you can be gripped by it, someone can point it out in love, and in your pride you can get defense. Once you are prideful it is hard to get out of. Scripture says God doesn’t like pride so much that He goes as far as to “humble the proud”.
- The tension is how do I stay humble and how do I know that I am being prideful?

SIT DOWN, BE HUMBLLED

- **Illustration // Share a time you tried to sit in someone else’s position only to fail.**
 - I will share the time in 7th grade I complained about not getting minutes on my basketball team. But someone couldn’t show up so I had to start and failed miserably. Then I realized the position I wanted, I wasn’t at a level to manage.

- We can covet a seat of power or influence that we were never meant to have.
- **When it comes to God, if you sit down, you will be humbled. If you try to sit in the seat, throne, and position of God you will be quickly humbled by Him and by life.**
- **Scripture // v 30-31**
 - The king says look at all these things that I have done in my great power and my great Kingdom. Before he can finish his statement He is humbled by God and his glory and power was removed.
 - Why? Because will not share a throne with anyone else.
 - He is Creator, Holy, Worthy, and King of Kings.
 - **Colossians 1:16 - For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, [things] visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [that is, by His activity] and for Him.**
 - **Proverbs 16:9 - A man's mind plans his way [as he journeys through life], But the Lord directs his steps and establishes them.**
 - God is King with all power and authority but it's not just because He is a mean dictator but He is also a loving father. He knows what pride can do to you. Pride and trying to be the God of your own life only leads to disaster, chaos, frustration, and confusion.
 - God humbles the proud because He cares more about your heart and soul than the stuff you possess. If he has to strip you of the stuff to get to your heart and soul, He will.
 - **John 15:2 - Jesus says, Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit].**
- **Application //**
 - So what are some indicators I am prideful? What are some heart checks?
 - Do I neglect genuine, heartfelt prayer, worship, and time with God and His Word? (What is your submission and obedience level to God?)
 - Do I get easily hurt or get offended if my accomplishments/or acts of service are not recognized or rewarded? (Do I need validity to feel successful?)
 - Do I struggle to humbly learn from others, especially those who are less educated or experienced than me? (Do you have mentors in your life that you submit to? Do you value the life and words of others?)

BOW DOWN, BE EXALTED

- **SCRIPTURE // v 34-37**
 - ³⁴ "After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal. ³⁵ All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, 'What do you mean by doing these things?' ³⁶ "When my sanity

returned to me, so did my honor and glory and kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored as head of my kingdom, with even greater honor than before. ³⁷ “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.”

- The King in all his power, authority, influence, greatness, got to a point of humility where he realized no one can get me out of this situation, no one can save me, no one can fix the mess, no one can help me but the one who truly sits on the throne. King Nebuchadnezzar had to get up off the throne and out of the position of God and bow down his life to Him.
- When he did he learned where his blessings, all the things he had, really came from. It is God who gives it, and God who takes it away.
- God humbles the proud because He cares more about your heart and soul than the stuff you possess.
- But those who bow down (submit, let him have control and the throne), will be exalted (or lifted up by God).
 - Daniel, bowed down, and was exalted.
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bowed down, and were exalted.
 - **Matthew 23:12 - For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**

- ILLUSTRATION //

- Share your story of how you got to the position you are at now. It is not because you are perfect, it is not because you are better than anyone else. It is because you made the decision to humble your life to God's will and He exalted you.
 - In the position of humility God can use you.
 - In the position of humility God reveals himself.
 - In the position of humility God can exalt you, He can lift you up to a place of influence because He can trust you with it and He will get glory through you.
 - In the position of humility God can order your steps.
 - In the position of humility God can mold you into who you were created to be.

Response:

- Salvation
- Submission
- Worship