

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 12, 2017

“Daniel: Uncompromising Faith ~

A Lesson in Humility”

Daniel 4:1-27

THE KING’S DREAM

Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.” (Daniel 4:1-3)

Nebuchadnezzar had gone to bed in his palace that night, in his own words, “contented and prosperous.” His culture and _____ had lulled him into a false sense of _____.

_____ in his own power and achievements, Nebuchadnezzar had surrounded himself with the _____ things this world had to offer.

The trouble with Nebuchadnezzar was that he was not only _____ in his ease, he was _____ in his prosperity—he had made the things of this world and his material surroundings into his _____.

Even worse than this was his hardness of _____. God had shown amazing _____ with Nebuchadnezzar, and in each of the three preceding chapters, had revealed himself to Nebuchadnezzar in unmistakable ways.

Romans 1 warns us that there is a line that can be crossed, beyond which God leaves people to their own lost cause—the _____ of their choices.

“For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!” (Romans 1:21-25)

God refuses to disclose His _____ through _____ channels. If we want to hear a word from the Lord we need to seek out those who love and honour Him and His _____.

Instead of Nebuchadnezzar recognizing that it was _____ who had raised him to this place of power, he took the credit _____.

It was God alone who _____ and gives _____ to whosoever He will.

The fact that a person has any power, prestige, or possessions doesn’t imply any merit or personal _____. It’s only by the _____ of God that we are who we are today—anything else is sheer _____ on our part.

“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us...So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!” (1 Corinthians 10:11-12)

There was _____ for the future that his kingdom would be restored once Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that _____ rules.

“Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.” (Daniel 4:27)

A year’s _____ was given for Nebuchadnezzar to learn his lesson and change the _____ of his _____. Although he was frightened by the vision at first, as time went by and nothing happened, he regained his proud _____.

THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

According to the Bible, the root problem at the core of our lives is _____.

Pride = ‘a feeling of deep pleasure or _____ derived from one’s own achievements; a high or inordinate opinion of one’s own dignity, importance, merit, or _____.

Spiritually speaking, pride might be; “a refusal to _____ God as we should; a failure to realize that all of our abilities, achievements, possessions and relationships are not the result of our own _____, but to the gifts and grace of a sovereign God.”

Pride is a _____. It robs us a full and meaningful _____ with God and other people.

Pride wants all the _____ for itself, and seeks to _____ self above all others—even God.

When pride invades our life, we don't think we need to listen to others or _____ from others. We think that we have all the wisdom and knowledge we need—that we're _____ and _____.

Who doesn't like to be _____ or praised. The problem comes when we take praise that's not due us—when we fail to give God _____ or take credit for His work in and through us.

God has created us—He's given us gifts, talents, and abilities; and everything we are and everything we _____ comes from _____.

Have you acknowledged God's authority in your life? Have you given Him glory for everything you are and everything you have?

“What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

HUMILITY: THE ANTIDOTE FOR PRIDE

“A person's pride brings them low, but one who is lowly in spirit will obtain honour.” (Proverbs 29:23)

The antidote to pride is a lowly spirit—or _____.
“And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

Humility isn't about thinking _____ of yourself—it's about _____ thinking of yourself at all!
Humility = *tapeinoo* =

Humility is clearly evident in _____ life and ministry—He always took the place of the _____ and never saw Himself greater than even the _____ person.

“Jesus got up from the table, took off His outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.” (John 13:4)

In order to _____ as Jesus served we need to get rid of our _____. We need be willing to _____ ourselves; to stoop _____ and to put

the _____ of others ahead of our own.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)

Without genuine humility our _____ can't be strong or abiding. Humility makes us _____, vulnerable and approachable; humility allows others to _____ with us, because we're not hiding our struggles, pretending to be something we're not, or raising ourselves up above others.

The path to personal humility can only be found in our _____ with Jesus.

“Those who walk in pride God is able to humble.” (Daniel 4:37)

“All who exalt themselves will be humbled and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)

There is only one person who is _____ of the highest place, and that's Jesus.

The Book of Daniel shows us that it's the Lord's sovereign right to _____ as well as to _____.

They never lost _____. They never allowed their success to go to their head. They remembered who it was who _____ them up and who it was who could just as quickly bring them down again.

We are 100% totally _____ on God. We are not in _____.
God is the only one on the _____!

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

Nebuchadnezzar had to lose it all before he could come to the _____ of himself and bow before a sovereign God. But when he was finally _____ before God, his life was radically _____.

Once Nebuchadnezzar saw God in all His sovereign glory, his whole _____ changed. He now saw the earth as under God's absolute _____. His pride vanished as he realized that God was the one calling the shots, not himself. In other words, he humbled himself before the Lord, and the Lord raised him up!