

Sermon Title: Faithful in the Fire: Whose Kingdom?

Sermon Scripture: Daniel 4:1-3



Sermon Discussion Guide (7/13)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Daniel 4:1-3 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

In these verses whose kingdom and works are praised? What does this reveal to us about God?

Read Daniel 4:28-37. In verse 30, who does King Nebuchadnezzar attribute the success of Babylon to? What specific words does King Nebuchadnezzar use to make this statement? How might these words or this perspective be seen in your speech and thoughts?

What consequence does King Nebuchadnezzar endure on account of his pride? According to verses 34-37, how does King Nebuchadnezzar's attitude change after he is humbled?

Read Philippians 2:1-8. What do these verses reveal to us about humility? What traits are involved in being humble? What is the relationship between humility and obedience to God?

Application

Pride often shows up in our lives in subtle ways through a need for control, a resistance to being corrected, and a tendency to link our identity with achievements and success. How have you experienced pride appearing in your own life?

Pride leads us to place ourselves above God. The antidote to pride is worship where we offer God the praise He rightly deserves. How do you incorporate praise and worship of God into your daily life? Does your media consumption and the attitude you regularly have lend itself towards the worship of God or the worship of self?

The first step in embracing humility is honest self-examination. How often do you reflect on your life and ask God to reveal to you any places where you exhibit an attitude of pride or self-will? What is the biggest challenge you face in taking time for honest self-examination? Is it perhaps a fear of what God will reveal to you or is it something else?

Pastor Kenny concluded his sermon by asking us where God might be humbling us so that we can release our own kingdoms and seek to build His Kingdom. How would you answer this question? What is one step you will take this week to lay down a spirit of pride and receive a spirit of humility?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Search us and show us our hearts. We confess the pride that exalts self, seeks recognition, and resists Your correction. We have trusted our own strength, sought our own glory, and followed our own wisdom. But today, by Your mercy and through the power of Your Spirit, we step down. We surrender control. We release our need to be right, admired, or in charge. We repent of our pride and the ways it has wounded our souls and distanced us from You and others. Take Your rightful place, Lord Jesus. Be enthroned in our hearts. Clothe us in humility. Form in us the mind of Christ. Teach us to follow, to yield, to listen, and to love with grace. You alone are worthy of glory. You alone are King. Come reign in us. Amen.