

Excellence in Exile (5)

From Palace to Pasture

Daniel 4:1-37

Intro: Hear Ye, Hear Ye (v. 1-3)

I. The King's Dream (v. 4-18)

II. The Interpretation of the Dream (v. 19-27)

III. The Fulfillment of the Dream (v. 28-37)

Conclusion: Message Received

Discussion Questions

1. In the King's dream, he saw a large tree that was cut down to the stump. Yet, even though a stump in the ground LOOKS dead... something new can grow from it (think about the tree in PD's back yard). In fact, Nebuchadnezzar's tree coming down may even be the KINDNESS of God allowing the King a fresh start to grow in the proper way (looking to God instead of self). Share a personal example of God redeeming something in your life that may have appeared to be dead and over... but God wasn't done with you yet!
2. It's always hard to deliver bad news or a message that might be unpopular. What was Daniel's approach as he gave the King hard news? What would it look like for us to be sympathetic toward those around us, while also calling them to repent and surrender to God?
3. For the last three chapters, God has been pounding Nebuchadnezzar with the same message... God alone is Sovereign. God alone is in control. As you think about your faith journey, what was (or is) an area of life that you found difficult to surrender to God's control? If you have, in fact, surrendered it now, how has that area of life changed as a result?
4. PD said that "God can use ANYBODY to do your job... but He wants you and has chosen you." Talk about how that reality lands with you. This simple truth served to both HUMBLE and ELEVATE King Nebuchadnezzar, and made him a GREATER King than he ever was before. How do you think this truth could make you a greater version of yourself?