

“A Humbled King”

Sunday, May 29, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI
Pastor Jonathan DeCou
Daniel 4:1-37

BIG IDEA: Don't get too big for your own britches.

*“[The King of Heavens] is able to humble those who walk in pride.”
Daniel 4:37b (CSB)*



A PROLOGUE of PRAISE. (v 1-3)



The King's DISTURBING DREAM. (v 4-18)



Daniel's DIRECT INTERPRETATION. (v 19-27)



The King's DISCIPLINING ILLNESS & REPENTANCE. (v 28-34a)



An EPILOGUE of PRAISE. (v 34b-37)



LESSONS (So, what am I going to do about it?):

- Don't fall VICTIM to PRIDE.
- With every SIN comes a CONSEQUENCE.

- Never take CREDIT for what ultimately COMES from GOD'S good HAND.
- REPENT early.
- Have COURAGE to speak the TRUTH in LOVE.
- Give GOD GLORY often.
- GOD is in CONTROL.

BIG IDEA: Don't get too big for your own britches.

Read: Daniel 4:1-37

Think: As you reflect on the “severe mercy” inflicted on King Nebuchadnezzar, ask yourself the following questions: *Do you recall a school or team braggart? How did you feel about being around such bragging individuals? What role does Nebuchadnezzar assume in his “prologue” (v1-3) between the people of “the whole earth” and “the Most High God”? How does the King’s handling of this dream differ from his handling of the earlier one (2:1-13)? How & why does he flatter Daniel this time? As the direct interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream unfolds, how do you suppose he felt about being described as a tree compared to being described as a “head of gold” in his first dream? What does it mean that the tree is cut down to size and yet a stump remains? Do you view the fulfillment of the King’s dream as a tragedy or act of divine merciful intervention? What do you imagine was going through Nebuchadnezzar’s mind during his seven years of mental illness? With his sanity restored, what does the King conclude about “the Most High”? How does his testimony strike you: Sincere penitence? Coached by Daniel? Miraculous turn-around?*

Do: Identify those areas of your life where you tend to take pride in yourself. Think of any time God has “cut you down to size” and what lessons did you learn from that experience? How has God changed your mind about His authority and power? Where is God asking you to speak up with courage in declaring His truth to others, both the good and the bad news?