



Daniel 4:34-37

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Main Idea: The way of humility leads to God.

"...humility is the greatest virtue. Humility is having an accurate assessment of your own nature and your own place in the cosmos. Humility is awareness that you are an underdog in the struggle against your own weakness. Humility is an awareness that your individual talents alone are inadequate to the tasks that have been assigned to you. Humility reminds you that you are not the center of the universe...Pride is the central vice...Pride blinds us to the reality of our divided nature. Pride blinds us to our own weaknesses and misleads us into thinking we are better than we are. Pride makes us more certain and closed-minded than we should be...Because of pride we try to prove we are better than those around us. Pride deludes us into thinking that we are the authors of our own lives." David Brooks, The Road to Character

1. Share a time when your own pride was exposed and beat down. Looking back, what tools and people did you have in your life to battle the flare ups of pride in your life?
2. Keven explains "our kingdom" as the "range of your effective will" or to put it differently, it is the place in which you want to have happen, happens. How do you describe the "our kingdom" in your life?
3. *"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes towards heaven, and my sanity was restored..." Daniel 4:34a*

What are your thoughts about bringing your own kingdom under the kingdom of God? Why is community and proximity so important to expose our faults and pride? What is the next step for you to more fully engage in authentic community for your own spiritual health?

4. *"Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives for ever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'" Daniel 4:34b-35*

What do you observe in Nebuchadnezzar's prayer that indicates transformation in his life? How might this inspire you?

5. *"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble." Daniel 4:37*

If pride is the affection and attention of the individual turned inward, the anecdote is to fix our attention outward.

"Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:9-10

What does it look like to fear God?

6. Complete your group discussion time with an exercise of praising God. Together **raise your eyes to heaven** and **praise the most high**.