A Pilgrim's Humility

Scripture: Daniel 4

Series: The Pilgrim Life: Living as God's People in a Pagan Land

Sunday, April 24, 2016

REDEEMER FELLOWSHIP

Overview

King Nebuchadnezzar saw a second dream that made him afraid. Once again only Daniel was able to interpret it for the King. Daniel explained it with respect and kindness and encouraged Nebuchadnezzar to repent of his sinful ways and acknowledge God's sovereignty. Initially Nebuchadnezzar responds with characteristic pride, but after experiencing seven years of humiliation the king remarkably blessed, praised and honored God. It is the greatness of God that humbles the heart of man. Pride causes us to not see the glory and greatness of God. If you find God's greatness in His grace you will humble yourself. Otherwise you will experience His greatness in His judgment.

Corraborating Texts

James 2:18-20, Romans 2:4-5, Romans 1:16-17, James 4:6; Luke 20:9-18; 1 Corinthians 4:7

Discussion Questions

- How is Christ's redemptive work pre-figured in this chapter of Daniel? [Daniel mediates the wisdom of God for Nebuchadnezzar—a Gentile; Jesus is the Wisdom of God to bring salvation to all the world; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 2:3]
- 2. Is it only the rich and powerful who struggle with pride? What are other, less obvious, sources of idolatry that blind you to the glory and greatness of God?
- 3. Re-read Daniel 4:19 and note how Daniel gently conveyed the sober judgments depicted in the pagan king's dream. Contrast this with how many Christians confront the world. Discuss how you can more faithfully speak the truth in love to your unbelieving neighbors.
- 4. Read aloud Luke 20:9-18 and 1 Corinthians 4:7. Reflect and discuss what these passages teach us about seeing your role relative to God as it really is. How does meditating on the glory and greatness of God nurture a humble and healthy self-image?