

CONFRONTING SIN

Daniel 4:19-37



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we read about the confrontation that Daniel has with King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel needs to bring a 'bad report' to the King by telling him that God is going to remove him from his place of position and drive him into the wild. However, if the king turns from his wicked ways, God may relent from the impending judgment.

King Nebuchadnezzar listens, but does not follow through, and we see the judgment come to pass. Yet at the fulfillment of the judgment, he is restored to his kingdom and he gives praise and honor to the God of Heaven.

We learned how confrontation is important and necessary for the New Testament Church. If done with the right heart, it is one of the most loving things we can do for our brothers and sisters. There are so many barriers and reasons why we are unable to confront one another in our sin, but we must learn how to lovingly do so to protect each other from a multitude of grief and pain.

Finally, we look at the pride that comes with great power and influence. When left unchecked, it completely consumes King Nebuchadnezzar and we are also at danger of being consumed by it as well. Rather than following in the footsteps of King Nebuchadnezzar, let's become more like Jesus - who humbled himself and aspired to be a servant. And in doing so, God has exalted Him to the highest place.



OUTLINE

1

CONFRONTING SIN

There are many reasons we might feel uncomfortable confronting a brother or sister in sin. Here were the reasons listed:

- 1) We're not that involved in each other's lives so we don't feel like we have a right to do so.
- 2) We are greatly influenced by a post-modern culture that says there is no absolute truth (thus who can call something sin?).
- 3) We are afraid of self-righteousness and the label of it.

Yet we must understand that the issues isn't whether we should or shouldn't, but how do we do so in the right way with the right attitude. By doing so with a right heart, we could be saving one another from a lot of grief and pain!

2

DANGER OF PRIDE

When we compare King Nebuchadnezzar with King Jesus, we see that King Nebuchadnezzar was a mere man. Jesus was the Eternal God. Nebuchadnezzar was sinful and merciless, but Jesus was sinless and merciful. Nebuchadnezzar stepped all over people to glorify himself. He aspired to sovereignty and was humbled by God. We see that Jesus humbled himself and aspired to servant. He lifted others up at the expense of his own self. And because of that Jesus was exalted by God to the highest place. Who are you becoming more like?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Share a time you have confronted a brother or sister in their sin. Or have you ever been on the other end of loving rebuke? How did it go?

2

Are you afraid of confronting others? Even among friends? Why?

3

What's the balance of judgment and grace? How can we show love through the "gift" of confrontation? Do you lean towards compassion or conviction? Grace or Truth?

4

What sins have we normalized in our culture? In our church? In our own lives?

5

Have we allowed pride to enable us to believe we don't need accountability?

6

How can our life group be a source of accountability and encouragement in this way?



BIG IDEA

Confronting one another in our sins in a healthy and helpful way is so difficult! God needs to really empower our community and give us the grace and patience to do so. But we know that if we do so with the right heart and the right attitude, it's the most loving thing we can do for one another. Let's pray together that our community would have this healthy practice as our church grows and matures.