

Week 4

Sermon Series: Exiles: Daniel

Sermon Title: "From Pride to Praise"

Sermon Text: Daniel 4:1-37

Study Handout Week of: August 7, 2022

Group Week of: August 14, 2022

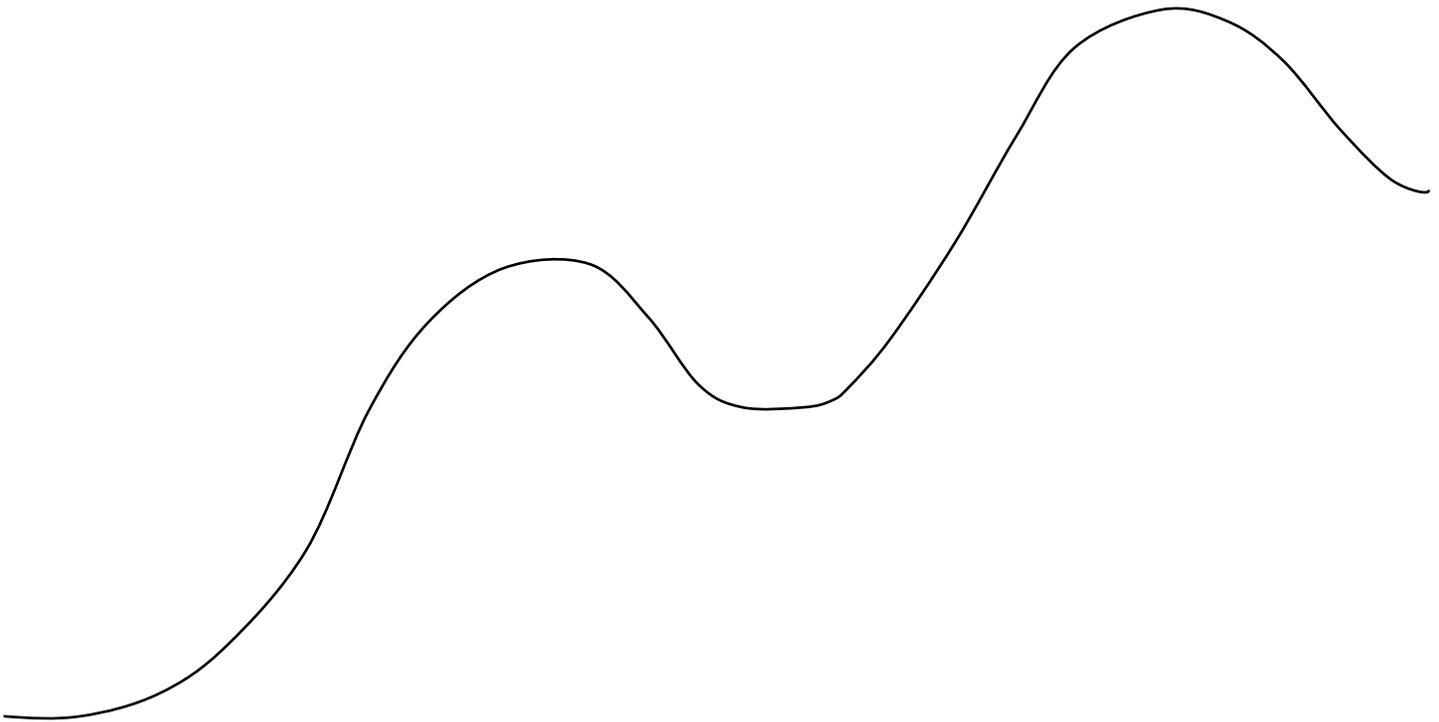
Sermon Date: August 21, 2022

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Humility & Exultation 1 – 1 Peter 5:1-11
Day 2	Humility & Exultation 2 – Luke 14:1-14
Day 3	God & the Nations – Psalm 75:1-10
Day 4	Gaining Humility 1 – Philippians 2:1-11
Day 5	Gaining Humility 2 – Revelation 1:9-20

The Text: Daniel 4:1-37

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) What justice is there in causing Nebuchadnezzar to have the mind and behavior of an animal?
- 3) What does Nebuchadnezzar learn as a result of this ordeal?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) While we are afraid to admit it, we all seek glory in some form or fashion. Sometimes this is an internal battle for “self-esteem,” other times it is a desire to be recognized by others, in some cases its that we desire recognition for an act or a skill. Where do you tend to seek glory? *(This question may be a hard one to answer honestly, or you may be unaware of these behaviors in your own life. If you struggle to come up with an answer, ask someone who will be honest with you.)*

- 2) It is incredibly easy for any successful group of people (team, company, family, or nation), to give credit to the efforts of its people and its leaders. What group of people are you proud to be identified with? What about that group makes you proud?

- 3) Case Study: You have a childhood friend who has been successful in the business they founded. Their business is worth hundreds of millions of dollars and employs hundreds of people. They have gained respect and acclaim in your city and in your church community. All their life, they have given the credit to God. They recognize it is God who has blessed and built their business. At the same time, your friend is a gifted leader, hard worker, and their abilities have clearly contributed to the success of the company. Recently, they have begun to talk differently. They have begun to say, “look what I’ve built” and “look at what I’ve done,” instead of giving glory to God. How would you approach them about this change in their lives?

- 4) God humbled Nebuchadnezzar, who had elevated himself, by making him less than a man. Does God humble his own children? How does He go about doing this? How has He done this in your life?

- 5) When the King has his mind restored to him, he immediately puts the Most High back in His position as the ruler over the earth and the one who does as He pleases with the peoples of earth and the powers of heaven. What is the clear evidence of humility in the life of a Christian? What are the false evidences of humility? How can we tell the difference in our own lives?

- 6) The pain of being humbled can be avoided. Daniel gave King Nebuchadnezzar that option in verse 27, “Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.” What must we do today to become humble? *(Hint: Humility is impossible to achieve by pursuing it directly, it is the fruit of other pursuits).*