

## Sermon Notes -- Daniel 4 – Humbleness

### Read Daniel 4:4-5 – Bad Dream

King Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest man alive at the time. His leadership had conquered the world. And it wasn't pure brutality. It was brilliant and beautiful. He was smart enough to take the best and the brightest of all he could find and have them to work for him. He turned his enemies into his advisors. He had built a great kingdom... for himself.

But God's message has always been the same. The kingdom that you see is of very little importance. This worldly kingdom is slowly being replaced by a heavenly kingdom and...

***To be great in the heavenly kingdom requires an entirely different attitude.***

### Read Daniel 4:1-18 – Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Nebuchadnezzar didn't think there was anything beyond him. He believed in various gods but those gods weren't much more powerful than him. In fact, he was muddled on whether he himself was a god. The gods might even envy him.

*He thought the world was a competition, and he had won. He believed in spiritual beings but he had overcome even them.*

### Read Daniel 4:19-27 – Daniel Interprets the Dream

*Therefore, O king, 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." -- Daniel 4:27*

This is a change you have to implement in your life every day. Every day, you will want to get something for yourself. And every day, you have to decide not to make life about you and to make it about somebody else.

### Read Daniel 4:28-33 – The Dream is Fulfilled

This is the sad part of it. Trying to hold on to what we have will drive us crazy. Hanging on to what we have makes us no better than an animal. I don't think God is so much punishing the king as showing him the fruit of the kingdom -- insanity.

***Seven times.*** He doesn't say seven years. Or seven months. He purposely says seven times.

What God is trying to do in us is significant... really significant. And as American Christians, we think that whatever it is that God wants us to get, we should get it before we leave today.

God wants you to forgive... to love... to serve... to think of others more highly than yourself. God wants you to humble yourself and take yourself out of the center of your existence.

God's goal isn't to punish you. God's goal is to perfect you... not all at once. You probably couldn't handle that. God doesn't want to tear you down. He wants to build you up. And you need to give yourself time, and you need to give others time.

### Read Daniel 4:34-37 – The King is Restored

This is the point. God wants you to have a good life, but He knows the good life can actually ruin you.

This king, who at first thinks *he* is god, now has a better understanding of the universe. His kingdom is pretty insignificant. God's kingdom is the one that we should give most of our consideration.

As we find an attitude adjustment, lowering ourselves, and raising up those around us, we find the Kingdom of God blooming like crazy, as we love and serve those around us.