

A SEVERE MERCY

DANIEL 4

- God's severe mercy shows us that God is in CHARGE, not us.
- God's severe mercy CONFRONT us in our sin and WARNS us to repent.
- God's severe mercy will HUMBLE those who live in PRIDE.
- God's severe mercy PURSUES us even to the CROSS.

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. How would you explain the idea of God showing us "a severe mercy?"
2. We see the continuing theme in Daniel of God's sovereignty and control. God is in charge, not us (Daniel 4:17). How has this truth been important in your life this week?
3. In your life, how has God confronted you and warned you about your sin? Does this feel like an act of mercy? How does Psalm 32:3-6 help us understand this?
4. In Daniel 4:30, Nebuchadnezzar is prideful about accomplishments. What are you tempted to be prideful about?
5. C.S. Lewis says, "...the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." Do you think this is an exaggeration? Why or why not?
6. Nathanael challenged us to consider our own self-centeredness as the main problem in our life when dealing with a difficult relationship or circumstance. How did that play out in your life?
7. What do these verses tell us about pride? Proverbs 9:10; 16:18; 29:23; 1 John 2:16; Isaiah 66:2; Philippians 2:3-4; Micah 6:8. Which stands out most to you?
8. How did Jesus model humility to us in Philippians 2:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 8:9?
9. How does the cross show us both the severity of our sin, and the severity of God's mercy?



"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle