

7 Kings

Week Three

"There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault that makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others.

The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit: and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility.... According to Christian teachers, 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." -C.S. Lewis

"Do not desire to be the principal man in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best man in the church is the man who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happened to him at all, so long as God is glorified." -Charles Spurgeon

KING #1: KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Daniel 4:1-3 (ESV)

"1 King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! 2 It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. 3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation."

Daniel 4:24-25 (ESV)

*"24 this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, 25 that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, **till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.**"*

Proverbs 16:18 (ESV)

"18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

King Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that you can be living like a king one day and living like an animal the next. He learned the hard way that the “Most High” God is God, we are not.

“A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.” -C.S. Lewis

Daniel 4:34-37 (ESV)

*“34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” 36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and **those who walk in pride he is able to humble.**”*

KING #2: KING BELSHAZZAR

Daniel 5:22-23 (ESV)

*“22 And you his son, Belshazzar, **have not humbled your heart**, though you knew all this, 23 but you have **lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven.**”*

Daniel 5:25-28 (ESV)

“25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

APPLICATION

Are you King Nebuchadnezzar or King Belshazzar?

The prayer we can pray today & every day is:

“Holy Spirit, help me to lay down my pride & take up humility.”

Pride hinders our relationship with God (separation).

Humility draws us closer to God (connection).

Pride is what keeps us bound to sin & struggle.

Humility is what can lead to freedom from sin & struggle.

Pride hinders our relationship with others (separation).

Humility draws us closer to others (connection).

Want to overcome pride & take up humility??

Draw near to Jesus & lay your pride down at His feet. As you grow closer to Jesus you become more like Him. The answer to humility is the Person of humility. Jesus.