Choosing Faith Over Compromise

The Book of Daniel

Mike Taylor www.TaylorNotes.Info

Lesson 3: When Pride Meets God's Power

Main Idea: Belshazzar-like pride can lead us to ignore God's warnings, misuse His gifts, and live as though we are accountable only to ourselves. It hardens our hearts against repentance, damages our Christian witness, and leaves us vulnerable to God's judgment (Daniel 5:22–30).

INTRODUCTION



What happens when powerful people believe they can take God's place? Daniel 4–6 show God's authority over proud rulers and His care for a faithful servant. Nebuchadnezzar learns humility after a painful fall. Belshazzar ignores what he already knows and faces sudden judgment. Darius discovers that royal authority cannot guarantee deliverance, while Daniel trusts the God who can rescue him. Together, these chapters ask us to consider whether we depend on our accomplishments, human power, or the living God.

READ CHAPTERS 4-6

Daniel continued serving in Babylon after the events of chapters 2–3.

Chapter 4 presents Nebuchadnezzar's testimony about a troubling dream, God's warning, and his eventual restoration. The king's achievements were real, but he wrongly treated his power and success as entirely his own.

Chapter 5 takes place later, near the end of the Babylonian Empire. Belshazzar rules while his father, Nabonidus, is absent. Nebuchadnezzar is called his "father" in the broader sense of royal predecessor. Belshazzar knows about Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation but refuses to humble himself. That very night, Babylon's rule comes to an end.

Chapter 6 takes place under the new government, with Darius the Mede ruling. Daniel's distinguished service leads the king to consider placing him over the entire kingdom. Jealous officials cannot find corruption or negligence in Daniel's work, so

they target his devotion to God. Daniel now faces a choice between obeying a royal decree and continuing his established practice of prayer.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we tell when satisfaction in what God has helped us accomplish is turning into sinful pride?

2. Why can pride be especially dangerous in a Christian who knows the Bible well or has served God faithfully for many years?

3. When someone criticizes us unfairly, how might defending ourselves become an expression of pride—and what would a humble response look like?

APPLICATION

Belshazzar's problem was not a lack of knowledge—he knew how God had humbled Nebuchadnezzar, yet refused to humble himself (Daniel 5:22–23). Christians can develop the following practices to avoid that same pride:

1. **Give _____.** Thank Him specifically for your abilities, opportunities, and accomplishments. Gratitude reminds us that everything we have is received from Him (1 Corinthians 4:7).

2. **Respond _____.** Confess sin and change direction when God exposes wrongdoing. Delayed obedience can harden into deliberate resistance (James 1:22).

3. **Serve _____.** Choose acts of kindness that bring no applause. Quiet service helps shift our attention from our own importance to others' needs (Philippians 2:3–4).

Daily prayer: *"Lord, keep me teachable, grateful, and dependent on You. Help me honor You with what You have entrusted to me."*