Victory Connect Lesson The Only Path Forward Pastor Paul Daugherty November 19, 2023

**Introduction:** That which is not turned into praise is turned into pride. Pride can turn you into a beast. Pride looks down on others, praise looks up to God. King Nebuchadnezzar was consumed with <u>his</u> accomplishments, <u>his</u> power, and <u>his</u> wealth. His great pride led to a great fall. Praise was his only path forward.

**Key Passage:** [Dan 4:37 NLT] 37 "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven..."

- 1. King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream about the fall of a great tree. [Dan 4:14 KJV] 14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:
- **2. Daniel interpreted the King's dream.** [Dan 4:25 NLT] 25 You will be driven from human society, and you will live...with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass...until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world...
- **3. Seven things that can keep us from praise:** Pride, possessions, perfectionism, pessimism, pain, pity, problems.
- **4.** Daniel exhorted the King to repent and be generous. [Dan 4:27 NLT] 27 "King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper."
- 5. The dream came to pass, King Nebuchadnezzar repented and was restored through praise. [Dan 4:34 KJV] 34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom [is] from generation to generation:

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. How do you remain teachable after great success?
- 2. What does being humble mean to you?
- 3. Does being generous come easily to you?

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