

Bible Studies continued:

Day Three: Matthew 5:3-12

2. How do you think a prideful person would respond to this passage? Why? Do you consider everyone on Jesus' list of beatitudes to be humble? Why or why not? Are they full of grace for themselves and others? Why or why not? Where do you see yourself on this list? Ask God to help you make sense of why you are blessed even though you're grieving, meek, etc. What is he speaking? How do you think he wants you to respond?

Day Four: Luke 16:19-31

1. Describe both the rich man and Lazarus (19-21). Upon each of their deaths, what new existence awaited them (22-23)? What did the rich man ask Abraham to do (24)? Why (24)? Summarize Abraham's response (25-26). What did the rich man ask for next (27-28)? Why (28)? What was Abraham's simple answer (29)? How did the rich man press the issue (30)? What was Abraham's final retort (31)?
2. Re-read verses 19-21. Visualize this scene in your mind's eye. What do you see, smell, hear, and touch? How does this make you feel? How does this text, especially verse 25, relate to day three's reading? Now, focus on the final verse. Consider people who "do not listen," even though Jesus rose from the dead. How do you think God wants you to pray for them? Commit to pray accordingly for at least one person per day over the next week.

Day Five: Romans 1:18-32

1. Describe the object of God's wrath (18). What do godless and wicked people suppress (18-19)? Why are they "without excuse" (20)? Describe the deterioration of knowing God but suppressing the truth about him (21-23). What are some of the sinful desires the Lord will then give over to people who take this path (24-27)? What else did God give over to them (28-31)? Despite awareness of sin's consequences, what two things do they do (32)?
2. Re-read verses 21 and 28. Such sin and pride leads to a great loss of reason and grace. What spiritual practices and mercies of God will help protect you from such a state? This week, implement at least one of these ideas. Finally, pray for loved ones who typify the people Paul describes here: those with darkened hearts and depraved minds. How do you think God wants to use you to point them toward Jesus and his redeeming grace?

I, Nebuchadnezzar

Rich Nathan
July 2 & 3, 2016
Strangers in a Strange Land
Daniel 4

- I. What is the basic definition of pride?
 - A. We are intensely competitive
 - B. We accept more responsibility for success than for failure
 - C. We believe we are better than we are
- II. What are the basic signs of pride?

III. What are the basic results of pride?

A. We ignore warnings

B. We lose our reason

Day One: Genesis 11:1-9

1. Set the scene of this text (1-2). What did the people plan (3-4)? Why did they want to do this (4)? Why do you think they wanted to “make a name for themselves”? Why do you think they feared being “scattered over the face of the whole earth”? What did the Lord do (5)? What did he say (6-7)? How did God’s plan become reality (8)? Why was the city called Babel (9)?
2. Describe the people of Babel. What motivated them? What were their passions? Do you see these characteristics and tendencies in people today? Explain. What about in yourself? In any way that you want to “make a name for yourself,” what do you think God desires for you instead? How will you respond to what you sense him speaking? Finally, ask that God would consistently thwart any plans of yours that are motivated by pride.

Day Two: Proverbs 1:20-33

1. Describe wisdom (20-21). How does her message spread (20-21)? What does she say about the simple, mockers, and fools (22)? What does she command (23)? What does obedience to it produce (23, 33)? What does it look like to disobey it (24-25)? Summarize wisdom’s response to this disobedience (26-30). What are some of the consequences of such disobedience (31-32)?
2. Do you believe that pride is what primarily leads people to reject wisdom and warnings? Why or why not? Could pride be the one thing that those described in verse 22 have in common? How do these proverbs help illuminate the story in Daniel 4, particularly Daniel’s advice and King Nebuchadnezzar’s rejection of it? As you reflect on this issue, ask God to make you increasingly sensitive and responsive to warnings, particularly those from the wise.

Day Three: Matthew 5:3-12

1. What word begins almost every sentence in this passage (3-11)? Look up the word “blessed” in the dictionary. Why do you think Jesus used it so much in this context? What will the poor in spirit inherit (3)? What will happen to the mourners (4)? The meek (5)? Those who want righteousness (6)? What will the merciful be shown (7)? What will the “pure in heart” see (8)? What will peacemakers be called (9)? What awaits the persecuted (10-12)?

Day Three is continued on the next page.