

AVELEIGH YEAR OF THE BIBLE, SUNDAY OCT. 14, 2018
SERMON SERIES: FAITH UNSHAKABLE PART 6 OF 10
WEEKLY REFLECTIONS ON DANIEL'S LIFE & BOOK
TEXTS: DANIEL 4:1-28 P.950 & LUKE 16:10-12 P.1123
SERMON TITLE: YOU WILL BE TESTED BY YOUR SUCCESS

Call to worship

The Lord is great and greatly to be praised!

We have come together today to worship.

What a gift it is to come together as the people of God.

Whatever worries and distractions we have, we lay them at the feet of Jesus.

We bring ourselves completely before the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

For our Lord is great and greatly to be praised!

Let us worship him together now.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we know that in every generation you call forth prophets to proclaim your word. We give you thanks that you are still speaking even today. Your Spirit inspires the young to see visions of a new creation and elders to dream of a time not yet known.

Yet we confess that we fail to hear your voice when it comes from an unexpected place. Convinced that we are right, we miss the Good News of your reconciling love.

We confess that too often enough is not enough. We confess our unwillingness to live with less, to part with possessions, pride, and power. We confess that too often we sacrifice what is sacred for that which is profane.

Forgive us, God. Restore us with humility and awaken us anew to your presence and your promise of Faith Unshakable. Amen

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FIRST: HOW SUCCESS GETS US INTO TROUBLE

1. WE GET COMFORTABLE AND COMPLACENT WITH SUCCESS.

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity in my kingdom and palace. I was taking it easy, without a care in the world!" Daniel 4:4

2. WE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE WARNING SIGNS.

Because you've been arrogant and you've ignored God, you're about to lose your kingdom & your sanity. Daniel 4:24-25

3. WE PUT OFF DOING WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT.

"Twelve months later, all of what King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed did actually happen to him. Daniel 4:28-33a

Second; STEPS TO RECOVERY

1. LOOK UP TO GOD. "After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven and my sanity returned." Daniel 4:34a (NLT)

2. WAKE UP TO GOD'S GREATNESS AND WORSHIP.

"My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored The One who lives forever." Daniel 4:34b (NLT)

We get better when we replace _____ with _____

"Remember how God led you through the wilderness these past forty years . . . He humbled you by letting you go hungry . . . and he tested you with hardships many times . . .

Deuteronomy 8:2-20

III. TRUTHS ABOUT GOD THAT STABILIZE OUR LIFE

- **GOD'S KINGDOM WILL OUTLAST EVERYTHING I DO.**

"God's rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal!"

Daniel 4:34c (NLT)

- **GOD'S APPROVAL MATTER MORE THAN ALL THE OTHERS.**

"All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him."

Daniel 4:35a (NLT)

- **GOD NEVER MAKES ANY MISTAKES**

"He has the power to do whatever he pleases — among the angels of heaven and with those who live on earth. No one can stop him or challenge him, or even question what he does . . . And those who walk in pride he is able to humble"

Daniel 4:35b, 37

CONCLUSION: TELL OTHERS HOW GOD HAS SAVED AND CHANGED ME.

"King Nebuchadnezzar sent a letter to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: May you prosper! I want to tell you all about the wonderful miracles that God has done for me!" Daniel 4:1-2

CHALLENGE: Who do I need to tell today? _____

PRAYER: Most loving and holy God, when I am tested by my own success, I humbly ask that you grant me FAITH UNSHAKABLE. Amen.

FOR THE ROAD: *"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity in my kingdom and palace. I was taking it easy, without a care in the world."* Daniel 4:4

1. When we are richly blessed, we ought to be praising God for his gifts. Why is it that during our most successful times we tend to focus less on God?

Because you've been arrogant and you've ignored God, you're about to lose your kingdom and your sanity. (See Daniel 4:24-25)

2. Share some reasons someone might head down a destructive path and not heed God's warnings.

"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." Daniel 4:27 (NLT)

3. Even when others have advised us, why do you think we put off doing what we know is right?

"After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven and my sanity returned." Daniel 4:34a (NLT)

4. What are some practical steps we can take to "look up to heaven" instead of focusing on ourselves and on other things?