

Daniel 4: Pride, humility, and properly-oriented love.

Augustine's Doctrine of Disordered Love

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross! (Phil 2:3-8)

1. Prologue: Nebuchadnezzar tells us the story of how God changed his life.

Daniel 4:1-3

2. Nebuchadnezzar tells Daniel his dream after his magicians could not interpret it for him. It is a dream about a great tree that is hewn to a stump.

Daniel 4:4-18

3. Daniel interprets the dream as a decree from God, that he would be reduced to insanity for a period of seven years, until such time as he finally acknowledged God's sovereignty.

Daniel 4:19-27

"This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven

rules. Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.” (Dan 4:24-27)

4. A year later, the dream came true. God’s voice confirmed the judgment. Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to the mental state of a lowly animal.

Daniel 4:28-33

5. After seven years, Nebuchadnezzar was restored and acknowledged God’s power and sovereignty.

Daniel 4:34-37

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.
All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.
He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.
No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: “What have you done?”

At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble. (Dan 4:34-37)