"PRIDE, YOUR # 1 ENEMY"

Daniel 4:30-37

INTRODUCTION: Verses 1 - 29.
Today I'd like to warn you about your worst enemy. This enemy lives in you, and his name is PRIDE! Open - Dan. 4.
Nebuchadnezzar's testimonial of a judgment while at rest and flourishing. He had a dream of a tree.

***Pride must be defeated in the Christian's life!**

How? By understanding three truths about pride.

I. PRIDE CAN BE DEFEATED BY UNDERSTANDING THE MARKS OF PRIDE (v. 30)

Twelve months later Nebuchadnezzar marched on Egypt and it was actually God who allowed him to conquer and destroy it. He returned home overcome with glory and success and forget God's warning (Ezek. 30:24-26).

As he stood on the top terrace of his famous palace, it is recorded in verse 30 - [READ V. 30]
In this verse there are three marks of pride which can be summed up in one word - "Selfishness."
The middle letter in the word pride is "I"!

The first mark we must be aware of is:

A. PRIDE OF SELF-ACHIEVEMENT (V. 30a)
Nebuchadnezzar is saying, "This is what I did!" (he boasts of city and its huge walls, temples, hanging gardens, and majestic palace).
Illust. The woodpecker
--"My church is running __ in attendance - how is yours doing?"
Many preachers have said -- if not openly, then in their hearts -- "Is this not the church that I have built?" "Are these not the souls that I have won?"
Scholar: "Is this not the knowledge that I have acquired?"
Musician: "Is this not the talent that I alone possess?"
[Paul said, "I am what I am by the grace of God."]

B. PRIDE OF SELF-STRENGTH (V. 30b)
Nebuchadnezzar is saying, "This is how I did it."
We are often confident in our muscle, talent, ability, knowledge, etc.
Example of Lucifer: "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness" (Ezek. 28:17).

C. PRIDE OF SELF-GLORIFICATION (V. 30c)
You are more like the devil when you are proud than any other time.
[READ Isaiah 14:13-14 - Lucifer's five "I wills"]
--I am worthy of honor; therefore I want it"
--I deserve the credit; therefore I want it"
--I deserve attention; therefore I want it"
--I deserve praise; therefore I want it"
Pride is stealing glory which belongs to God
(Ex: Herod Agrippa - Acts 12:23)
"Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory."

The Examples of Pride are numerous
--The desire to draw attention to ourselves
--Showing off - A proud person is in love with his own opinions
(he is not a good listener, but loves to talk) (Ja. 1:19).
--Seeking to be a "big shot" (the greatest) (Lk. 9:46) instead of a humble servant (Mt. 20:26-28)
--Always having to be right (can't be corrected)
Pride keeps us from:
1. Admitting wrong, error (apologizing)
2. Learning from others (accepting constructive criticism)
--Always having to win (flesh-driving competition) (Prov. 13:10)
(ex. bragging rights)
--Advancing our own agenda/"It's all about me"
--Consumed with comparison (Lk. 9:49-50) (Measuring themselves by themselves – 2 Cor. 10:12)
A proud person has a critical spirit (he can see the speck of dust in someone else's eye, but not the beam in his own eye – Mt. 7:1-5).
A proud person is generally divisive and shatters unity (Prov. 28:25)
A proud person never or rarely prays.
A proud person does not express gratitude (to God or others) He considers himself ultra-worthy of what he is given.
Pride keeps us from: Seeking help from God (prayer) and others
A sign of pride is prayerlessness - You are saying I can handle my own life.

II. PRIDE CAN BE DEFEATED BY UNDERSTANDING THE PENALTY FOR PRIDE (v. 31-33)

[NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar drops from first person to third during madness.]
Nebuchadnezzar's penalty came unexpectantly and suddenly - "While the word was in the king's mouth."
Muhammed Ali spoke of himself before his 1971 with Joe Frazier

A. LOSS OF POSSESSIONS (v. 31)
That which Nebuchadnezzar had striven for and boasted over and taken pride in was taken from him.
Loss of typing skill)

B. LOSS OF POSITION
READ verses 32 and 33a.
A leader who is egocentric has no right to hold the position of leadership.
And a pastor who is proud has no right to stand behind a pulpit.
A musician who is self-centered has no place performing music that is supposed to edify others.

C. LOSS OF PERSONAGE (v. 33b)
Supernatural judgment, miraculous.
Nebuchadnezzar, who was a man to be respected, was now lowered to such a base condition.
Nebuchadnezzar was humiliated - "God resisteth the proud" (James)
"A minister, a Boy Scout, and a computer expert were the only passengers on a small plane.
Prov. 11:2 - "When pride cometh, then cometh shame"
Prov. 15:25 - "The Lord will destroy the house of the proud"
Prov. 16:18 - "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"

III. PRIDE CAN BE DEFEATED BY UNDERSTANDING THE RESTORATION FROM PRIDE (v. 34-37)

A. LOOKING UP TO THE SAVIOR (V. 34)
"Humility is not denying that you have talent or ability; it is acknowledging God as the source of your talent and ability." (Vincent Sawyer) And knowing that He gave it to you for His glory, not your own.

B. LIFTING UP THE SAVIOR (v. 34b-35)
1. Eternality of God - God is everlasting
2. Sovereignty of God (v. 35)
Nebuchadnezzar saw himself as he really was!
Job – "I abhor myself in dust and ashes"
Isaiah - "Woe is me"
Peter - "Depart from me"
John - "Fell down as dead"

- Nebuchadnezzar was rewarded (v. 36).
- Nebuchadnezzar gives a warning (v. 37).

CONCLUSION: During William Carey's last illness in 1834, he was visited by the Scottish missionary Dr. Alexander Duff, who, in prayer with him, referred to him as "Dr. Carey…"