



Harmonychurch.life

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.
This month's Memory Verse is:

***"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."
Ephesians 6:10***

Last month & this month's life app is

**Conviction
"Standing up for what's right even when others don't."**

Our basic truth, that **never** changes is that

"I can trust God no matter what."

Each week, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story.

This week's bottom line is;

"If you want to stand for what's right, listen to someone who listens to God."

Our story for this week is 'What's in a Dream'. (Daniel 4)

** This is another story from the Bible found in the Book of Daniel, and it starts in chapter 4.

We begin one night when King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Not the dream about a statue, this time King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about a huge tree. It was so massive that it grew up into the sky and could be seen all over the world! But then the tree was cut down leaving just a stump."

King Nebuchadnezzar was frightened because he didn't understand at all what this dream could mean. He called for all the wise men in Babylon. But they couldn't help.

Finally, Daniel came before the king. The king told him all the details of the dream.

There was this huge tree that was so big that it could be seen from anywhere in the world! Its leaves were beautiful. It had lots of fruit on it. It provided enough food for people and animals. Under the tree, the wild animals found safety. The birds lived in its branches. Every creature was fed from that tree. But then a loud voice commanded to cut it down. Break off its branches. Strip off its leaves. Scatter its fruit. Let the animals under it run away. Let the birds in its branches fly off. But leave the stump with its roots in the ground. Let it stay in the field and put a band of iron and bronze around it. "Any ideas on what that means, Daniel? Is it good news? Is it bad news? Please tell me."

Daniel was frightened by this dream, too. Because Daniel understood what the dream meant, and knew that it was not good news.

He explained to the king that God had sent this dream to warn him. King Nebuchadnezzar was the tree! He had grown great and powerful, like the tree. But he had been wrong trying to bring glory to himself instead of giving it to God. God was about to take away the king's power—to cut him down like a tree is cut down to a stump! Not only that, but the king was going to be pushed out of normal human life, and would live out in the wilderness like a wild animal!

Daniel explained that in the dream the voice said to leave the stump of the tree along with its roots. That means your kingdom will be given back to you when you recognize that the God of heaven rules everything. He is the Most High.

Daniel told the king he might be able to avoid this terrible punishment if he stopped sinning and started doing what was right. If he quit his evil practices. Showed kindness to people who were being mistreated. Daniel told the king he hoped he would listen to his advice. If the king would recognize that God is the One who rules, then maybe things would keep going well for him.

But the king didn't listen. The Bible says that one year later, King Nebuchadnezzar was walking around on the palace roof looking around at the city of Babylon. In Daniel 4:30 it tells us what he said;

**“Isn't this the great Babylon I have built as a place for my royal palace?
I used my mighty power to build it. It shows how glorious my majesty is.”**

King Nebuchadnezzar still didn't get it. He hadn't followed Daniel's advice. He still thought that he deserved all the glory because he thought he was the one with all the power.

Well, immediately, he heard a voice from heaven:

**‘King Nebuchadnezzar, here is what has been ordered concerning you.
Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people.
You will live like the wild animals. You will eat grass just as cattle do. Seven periods of time will pass by.
Then you will recognize that the Most High God rules over all of the kingdoms of men.’
(Daniel 4:31-33)**

The Bible says that within the hour, the punishment started. King Nebuchadnezzar was driven away from people. He ate grass just as cattle does. His body became wet with the dew of heaven. He stayed that way until his hair grew out like the feathers of an eagle and his nails became like the claws of a bird.

The Bible says that King Nebuchadnezzar was like this for seven periods of time. We don't know for sure how long that actually was, but it was probably like seven seasons or even seven years!

But, at the end of the seven periods of time, King Nebuchadnezzar's mind returned to normal. He finally understood that it is God who is the most powerful and God is the One who is truly in control.”

King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom and his power were returned to him, and he worshiped God from that day on.

The sad part is that the king could have avoided all of that trouble if he had listened to Daniel and taken his advice. And it's the same for us. We can avoid a lot of trouble if we listen to, and follow the advice of, people who follow God.

Today's Bottom Line talks about just that;

“If you want to stand for what's right, listen to someone who listens to God.”

Remember this story about Nebuchadnezzar. He was right to ask Daniel's advice, but he didn't take it. The same goes for us. We should not only listen to wise people who follow Jesus, we need to actually try and do what they suggest. Let's pray and ask God for help doing that.

PRAY

“Dear God, whenever we have problems, please help us to find friends and adults who follow You. Give us the wisdom to not just listen to their advice, but to take it. Help us to know how to stand up for what is right. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.”