

2024



DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

"FLIP IT" MODERN DAY MOVIE PARABLES FOR EVERYDAY LIFE!

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

In the movie Devil's Advocate, the last line states, "Vanity, guaranteed to get them every time." The enemy's job is to steal, kill and destroy. He roams the earth seeking whom he can devour. The enemy does not fight fair. The enemy will tempt you with your desires and if that fails, the enemy will attack that which you love. The enemy is a liar who will manipulate at every chance. You have the opportunity to reject whatever the enemy presents.

Daniel 4:28, 30-33 NIV -[28] All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. [30] he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" [31] Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. [32] You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. 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." [33] Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

Today we look at a king who fell prey to one of the seven deadly sins. King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful of all the Babylonian kings. Through his dreams, he wrestled with his own sovereignty compared to that of God's. In Daniel Chapter 4, Daniel interpreted the King's dream and gave a fierce warning that correlates with the book of Revelation. Because of the king's pride, he did not heed to the warning.

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS:

Pride – An inflated, unrealistic sense of your self-worth.

Envy – The feeling that you deserve the possessions, success, virtues, or talents of another person.

Gluttony – An excessive desire for the pleasure of eating and drinking.

Lust – A selfish focus on sex or a desire to have sexual pleasure with whoever or whatever you desire.

Anger – An excessive, improper desire to exact revenge.

Greed – A strong desire for possessions, especially for possessions belonging to another.

Sloth – Lack of effort in the face of a necessary task, causing it to go undone (or done badly).

- Sin is all around us

- One sin is no greater than the next, God warns against all sin
Of the seven deadliest sins, which do you most struggle with? Why?

THE WARNING

Daniel 4:27 MSG - "So, king, take my advice: Make a clean break with your sins **and start living for others. Quit your wicked life and look after the needs of the down-and-out.** Then you will continue to have a good life."

- We make sin a physical issue when its mental
 - Lust when it's conceived brings forth sin
 - Sin is a mentality before a behavior
- Sin brings forth death
- Ask God to help you to live your life with an apron and not a clergy collar

What warning has God given you regarding your sin? How has the warning impacted your life?

OUT OF THE 7 YOU WILL BE PRESENTED PRIDE

An **inflated, unrealistic sense** of your self-worth.

THE FALL

Daniel 4:28-30 MSG - [28-30] All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Just twelve months later, he was walking on the balcony of the royal palace in Babylon and boasted, "Look at this, Babylon the great! And I built it all by myself, a royal palace adequate to display my honor and glory!"

- You cannot drop your guard and forget that God has done everything for you
- When we look at you God's supposed to get the glory
- Think about how good God has been to you
- It's dangerous to think you did it by yourself
- It's sometimes hard to recognize pride in your life when you are operating in it

What caused you to fall from God's grace? What happened after the fall?

THE REALITY OF THE FALL

SIGNS OF A MENTAL BREAKDOWN:

- **MIND CHANGE**
 - How you feel about God begins to change
 - Your thoughts are different
- **POSITION CHANGE** Daniel 4:31b
 - Your royal authority is taken from you
 - Your power and confidence has been taken away

- **CIRCLE CHANGE** *Daniel 4:32a*
 - You find yourself among people whom you have nothing in common with
 - Your environment has changed
- **APPETITE CHANGE** *Daniel 4:32c*
 - You no longer desire what is good for you
 - You are craving things of the flesh instead of the spirit
- **LOOK CHANGE** *Daniel 4:33b -*
 - Sin leaves a mark on you
 - You look different
 - You act different
 - You sound different
 - You cannot play in the camp of the enemy because you will begin to look like what you been with

Be honest, when was the last time you experienced a mental break from reality? What happened? How did you recover?

THE RESTORATION

*Daniel 4:34, 36 NIV - [34] 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. [36] 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.***

- It's about to be a new season (at the end of that time)
- Before you get stuff back, you need your mind back
- When you get your mind back, you get yourself back
- Your praise is a reflection of your sanity
- Someone is looking for you
- Don't lose your praise when they come and get you
- For restoration to come you have to admit you're off
- It's not you, everything you have came from God
- You are not who they say you are
- You set the tone wherever you go

In your secret prayer closet, you believe God to bring restoration into your life. While you're believing God to do it, what action plan have you created? How far along are you with the plan?

Joel 2:25-26 KJV - [25] And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. [26] And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that

hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

- In order for God to restore you, you cannot become comfortable with the idea that you have not changed
- You have to make a conscious decision not to believe foolishness
- Guard your praise and your mind
- You owe God praise, honor, and glory
- God will bless you when he knows you can handle it
- Take your pen and rewrite the story
- God has written another chapter on your behalf
- Be careful about craving attention
- Be humble enough to admit that you failed

Everyone reaches a point where restoration is needed to move forward. However, how do you respond when God removes something that is not of his will to restore? Example; that relationship, job or even finances that you lost.

QUESTION

Can you handle elevation? Can God trust you with greater?

DECLARATION

I am who I am because of God, I take no credit for His work!

PRAYER

Lord, I repent for allowing sin to get in the way of Your plan for me. Lord move me out of the way that You may be glorified for everything that I do or say and for who I am . I take no credit for Your handiwork. It is because of You that I have the things I have with the ability to do what I do. Lord keep me near You. Don't let me stray away from Your glory. Keep me grounded and humbled, in Jesus' name. Amen!