



CONNECTION KILLERS

CONNECTION KILLERS, PART 3: ARROGANCE

We can definitely be victims of our own success. One reason is that success can make us arrogant since we now have a reason to feel superior. Society heaps value on the winners and forgets those who came in second. And long track records of success almost certainly create an “I’m superior” attitude the more we allow the outside world to influence our ego. When everyone is telling you how great you are through sales, comments, and awards, it’s easy to start thinking that you are better than you actually are.

When you see someone with less—less sophistication, intelligence, education, money, or influence—you’re tempted to think more highly of yourself. Pause for a moment and tell your pride, “The Most High is sovereign over all the kingdoms.” Remind your pride that everything God has given you is a stewardship. It’s temporary. You are accountable for how you use it.

BIG IDEA: When you make it about you, you miss what life is really about.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who have been the greatest leaders you have experienced? What made them great leaders?
2. Who is the worst leader you’ve known? What caused him or her to be such poor leaders?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Proverbs 16:18.*

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18 (NLT)

4. Are you heading toward a fall? Do you have relationships that are crumbling, resentments that are building barriers? What consequences do you see on the horizon if you don’t deal with your pride?
5. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Daniel 4:27-37.*

²⁷ “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.”²⁸ “But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar.”²⁹ Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon.³⁰ As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.’³¹ “While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom.’³² You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.’³³ “That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles’ feathers and his nails were like birds’ claws.



³⁴ “After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal. ³⁵ All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, ‘What do you mean by doing these things?’ ³⁶ “When my sanity returned to me, so did my honor and glory and kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored as head of my kingdom, with even greater honor than before. ³⁷ “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.”
Daniel 4:27-37 (NLT)

6. From Daniel 4, what spiritual truths are found in Nebuchadnezzar’s story?
7. King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was fulfilled and his power was stripped from him until he acknowledged God’s sovereignty. What examples of God’s sovereignty have trumped your own plans and aspirations?
8. King Nebuchadnezzar realized that leadership is a stewardship; it is temporary and we are accountable to God for how and who we lead. How will that reality influence the way you lead in your current leadership roles?
9. What is one area of my life in which I am aware God wants me to humble myself before Him by repenting and changing my ways?

MOVING FORWARD

Great leaders are the ones who leverage their leadership opportunities for the sake of those they have been privileged to lead, rather than for themselves. The Bible reveals that King Nebuchadnezzar finally realized that truth, but his successors did not. History books record stories of numerous leaders who understood their leadership as a stewardship and those who sought leadership for their own gain. Is there a correlation between a leader’s ability to understand this truth and the health of the country or organization that the leader represents?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

This week, identify an area where God has placed you in leadership. What steps can you take to leverage your position for the sake of those you lead?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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.
Daniel 4:37