

WISDOM UNDER FIRE (Week 4)

October 5TH, 2025

Review:

- Remember how Daniel and Israel got to Babylon—discipline after many warnings by God.
- Daniel was affected by the decisions of others.
- Wisdom defined: *the quality of discerning what is true, what is ethically right, and what should be done in different situations.*
- When Daniel arrived, he was determined not to defile himself. Determination over time is what we call perseverance.

THIS WEEK: HUMILITY

- Pride is the opposite of humility.
- Pride refers to an unwarranted attitude of confidence. While pride can have a positive connotation of self-worth, it is often used in Scripture to refer to an unhealthy elevated view of oneself, abilities, or possessions.
- Pride is abhorrent in God's sight (**1 Peter 5:5**).

Daniel chose to know and do what God commanded in Scripture.

- **Daniel 1:8 (NIV)** *"I will not defile myself."* Daniel knew and obeyed Scripture.
- Daniel did not always get a dream from the Lord. He had to trust in the Scriptures too!

Daniel 9:2 (NIV) *²In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.*

- **2 Timothy 3:14-17; Daniel 2:27-28 (NIV)**

Daniel prayed constantly.

- Thanking and asking God for help is an act of humility (**Daniel 6:10-11 (NIV)**).
- Daniel included himself in his confession before God (**Daniel 9:4-5 (NIV)**).
 - When you spend time with God you are humbled.
 - This leads to *"I have sinned"* rather than *"They have sinned."*
 - Daniel showed humility in how he dealt with people.

Daniel asked rather than demanded?

- He chose to listen to and understand where people came from.
- Daniel served King Darius and others faithfully.
- He went to his private room and prayed.
- His response to the King was one of humility and honor.

Daniel and his friends had to live in the balance of submission and humble resistance. They needed wisdom and perseverance to be able to make those decisions.

Hints on how Daniel was able to do this:

1. He was abiding—relying on Scripture and obeying.

2. Praying continually (*3x a day*).
3. Setting his mind on Jerusalem and what that represented: the spiritual battle being fought. He understood the “*bigger picture*.”
4. Remembering God’s faithfulness and promises (**John 15:5; Daniel 2:44-45 (NIV)**).

We fight the right fight, the right way, and this takes wisdom. I will choose to be wise about when I humble myself and submit, and when I humbly resist because I know:

- The Word of God.
- What is essential and what is not?
- What is preferential and what is not.
- How much of it is “*not liking being told what to do?*”
- Checking my motives.
- Not allowing fear and anger to push me to react.

What is next for you? Have you humbled yourself before God?

1. Pride kills your relationship with God.
2. Pride kills your ability to be used by God in a positive way.
3. It takes you out of the battles or puts you on the opposite side of God.
4. Pride kills your relationship with others.

For Small Group Discussion:

Passages to look at: **Daniel 6 & 9; Proverbs 11:2, 19:23; James 3:13-18 (NIV)**

Ice Breaker: What is a part of your daily routine that would be a ‘*killer*’ to lose?

- **Share something important to you from the sermon. What questions did you have?**
 1. Read **Daniel 6:1-14 (NIV)**. What do you see Daniel doing in this passage? Look at as many different aspects as you can. (*After you discuss this, you can finish reading Daniel 6.*) Describe Daniel’s prayer life. What do you notice? How might that impact wisdom and humility in Daniel’s life?
 2. What is hard about prayer? What is rewarding? What helps you pursue prayerfulness?
 3. Read **Proverbs 11:2 & 29:23 (NIV)**. How do you recognize pride and humility in yourself? What can be a struggle between pride and humility for you? Have you ever considered letting a close friend (*or spouse*) speak into this area?
 4. What are you discovering about Daniel, wisdom, determination, perseverance, and humility in this series? How is what you are discovering impacting your relationships and how you respond to the world we live in at this time?

Challenge this week: Read **Daniel** chapters **2** and **7**. Meditate on **James 3:13-18 (NIV)**.

Passages to prepare for next week: **Daniel 2** and **7**, **Romans 14 (NIV)**

Bonus: Read **Daniel 9 (NIV)**. What do you learn from Daniel’s prayer? What could you adopt from it for your own prayer life?