**Going deeper in Daniel 4:27-37**

**INTRODUCTION**

Nebuchadnezzar has had a dream about an enormous tree representing a kingdom and a king. The tree is cut down and the ruler loses his sanity and he is driven from society. Daniel interprets the dream and lets Nebuchadnezzar know that the dream is about Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar is at a crossroads and Daniel lets him know what his choices are and then in the following passage we see what happens.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

27 Daniel said, “O king take my advice: Turn from your sins and do what is right by showing kindness to the oppressed. Then your prosperity will continue.”28 All of this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. 30 The king said, “Is this not the great Babylon that I have built as a royal residence by my mighty power for the glory of my majesty?” 31 While the words were still on his lips a voice came from heaven, “King Nebuchadnezzar this is the verdict on you: Your royal kingdom has been taken from you. 32 You will be driven away from people and your dwelling will be with the wild animals. You will eat grass like oxen. Seven times will pass you by until you come to know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives it to whomever He chooses.” 33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like oxen; his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like the claws of a bird. 34 At the end of the time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked to heaven and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified Him who lives forever; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the people of the earth are regarded as nothing; He does as He pleases with powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. There is no one who can hold back the power of His hand or say to Him, “What have you done?” 36 At the same time I was given back my mind and my honor and majesty were restored with the glory of my kingdom. All the leaders and important advisers came looking for me. I was restored as king in my kingdom and I became greater than ever before. 37 And now I, Nebuchadnezzar, sing praises and glorify the King of Heaven: “Everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think it was like for Daniel to give Nebuchadnezzar a chance to repent in verse 27? If you were Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed your hometown, killed your family and people you cared about and then taken you as a slave would you want to give him the chance to repent and escape God’s judgment? Why or why not?

2. Are there people that have hurt you that you need to pray that the Lord gives them the opportunity to repent? What does it take to give up the desire for revenge?

3. What is the sin that causes Nebuchadnezzar to reject God and brings judgment on himself? How does this compare to all the other evil things that Nebuchadnezzar has done? Why is the judgment so harsh for this particular thing?

4. What’s the difference between confidence in God’s power at work in you and pride?

5. What does the humbling experience do for Nebuchadnezzar? What does he learn about God? Have you experienced something like this that lead you to new insights about the power and might of God? What happened?

6. If all honor and majesty come from God how should that change how we live?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*If you have not asked the Lord Jesus to be King of your life you can ask Him right now.

\*Thank the Lord for His sovereign work in your life even with the things you don’t understand.

\*Daily re-commit all of your ways and your life to Him

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord God is in charge of all. Have you acknowledged His Lordship in every area of your life? Can the people around you see that? Nebuchadnezzar says a lot of the right things about God, but his actions are the problem. How will your actions this week demonstrate that the Lord of All is in charge of your life?