

## Sanctify yourselves

SANCTIFY YOURSELVES FOR TOMORROW THE LORD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU. Joshua 3,5.

Well again I was going through the book of Daniel and this book has never stopped fascinating me. Though we can write and write about Daniel and his friends, this time I want to focus on Nebuchadnezzar the King-friend of Daniel. I would really wish that all of you read the first four chapters of Daniel so you can really understand the rest.

When Daniel was brought in to Babylon as an exile, it was Nebuchadnezzar himself who personally interviewed him and realized that he was 10 times wiser than his own people(1,20) In the second chapter we see Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream and he wanted both the dream and the meaning to be revealed. When the God of the Impossible, revealed it to Daniel and when he in turn told the King, Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel (2, 46) and publicly confessed, "Truly your God is the god of gods, the Lord of kings and revealer of secrets."(2,47).

But in the very next chapter Nebuchadnezzar built a huge image which was a prototype of what he saw in his dream and wanted all to worship it. It was here the three friends, Shadrach, Mesach and Abednego stood out and triumphed. The basic problem of Nebuchadnezzar is the PROBLEM OF PRIDE. He knew that this image which he saw in his dream will be shattered to smithereens, but yet he wanted to be adored and worshipped. Again God demonstrated His sovereignty by personally walking in the fire alongside the other three. It seems now Nebuchadnezzar would be quiet. But again he saw another dream where Daniel interprets is about the King himself, that he would become mad and live like an animal. Daniel also pointed that he should humble himself. But again we see after a year after this dream he forgetting the dream, exclaimed in all his arrogance, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honour of my majesty?"(4,30) Despite the warning Nebuchadnezzar was overruled by pride and that very instant he was stripped of all power and he lived like an animal for 7 years, till he repented and confessed the Sovereign Power and Authority of God.

The main reason for discussing Nebuchadnezzar is that he had a weakness and he constantly forgot about that. As we live in this world, we all have a point of weakness in our character. Our heart itself will reveal that to us. But instead of forgetting our weakness like Nebuchadnezzar, let us place it before God and ask Him to heal us of the weakness which can bring us to lower depths. For young people it could be the lure of watching indecent things or could be the love of money or to constantly have someone to talk to even crossing the decent limits. For me personally my point of weakness is always regarding relationships. I tend to place people so much in the place of God and that becomes my trap also. When we realize and acknowledge our problem area then we have to humbly submit it to God and allow Him to master over that weakness.

My dear young friends we just can't afford to waste our time in committing costly mistakes then lay low for some years, then revive ourselves to work for God. There is very little time and God needs you and me in His vineyard. So rise up from your petty weaknesses. Deal honestly and with integrity before God. Never do things which you wouldn't want Jesus to hear or see. Be strengthened by the grace of God and set out to do great exploits for God. Lo the King has gone before you.

Dear Father, Come down with your fire and sanctify us of all our weaknesses so that we may be found pure and blameless before you. Help us do great exploits for His Kingdom. In Jesus name. Amen.