

Light In Darkness
Week 4: Speak Truth
Daniel 4:19-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. How far are you willing to go to get someone's attention?
- B. Sometimes people try to get the attention of others by taking drastic actions.
- C. In our text today, we learn about a time when God went to great lengths to get the attention of Nebuchadnezzar.

THE KING'S SECOND DREAM (vs. 1-18)

- A. The King had experienced something that had gotten his attention in a way the other signs had not (2:47; 3:28-29).
- B. He was enjoying a luxurious life as a powerful king when he had another dream that alarmed him.
- C. Nebuchadnezzar sought out the interpretation of his dream from all the wise men of Babylon.

DANIEL CHOSE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH WHEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER TO SPEAK SOMETHING ELSE (vs. 19-27)

- A. Speaking the truth of the dream to the king would not have been easy. Consider all he was telling the king:
 - 1. He would be removed from the throne of his own kingdom which was a world power.
 - 2. He would be driven from among men to dwell with and act like the beasts of the field.
 - 3. He would be humbled and humiliated until he came to realize that there was one greater than him.
- B. Although Daniel hesitated before telling the king about the dream, he still told the king the whole truth.
- C. If we want to be a light in the darkness around us, we must be willing to speak the truth of God's Word even when it would be easier to speak things more pleasing for others to hear.

WE MUST BE WILLING TO SPEAK TRUTH EVEN WHEN IT'S DIFFICULT

- A. Our relationships shouldn't prevent us from speaking truth.
 - 1. Daniel was a friend who was willing to tell Nebuchadnezzar the whole truth even though it wasn't easy.
 - 2. We have a duty to help hold our brothers and sisters accountable (Luke 17:3).
 - 3. God expects His people to serve as watchmen (Ezek. 3:17-19).
- B. Our culture shouldn't prevent us from speaking truth.
 - 1. Daniel didn't allow the pagan culture to influence his interpretation of the dream.
 - 2. Some people may not want to hear what you have to say (2 Tim. 4:1-5).
 - 3. As children of light, we are to expose sin and not ignore the sin around us (Eph. 5:11).
- C. Our attitude shouldn't prevent us from speaking truth.
 - 1. Daniel did not enjoy delivering the message to the king even though the king had caused Daniel much pain.
 - 2. Love finds no pleasure in the sins of others (1 Cor. 13:6).
 - 3. We must always speak the truth to others in love (Eph. 4:15).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Daniel was a light in darkness by speaking the truth even when it was not easy.
- B. What about us? Are we willing to speak the truth even when it is difficult and people may not want to hear it?
- C. Speaking the truth to others just might help save someone from eternal death (Jam. 5:19-20).