

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Grace and the Beast

May 15, 2016

Daniel 4

- 1.) What is it about fairy tales like Beauty and the Beast (or Cinderella, etc. if you don't like that one!) that makes us love the stories so much? What does this indicate about the gospel story of the Bible?
- 2.) When in your life have you experienced the roller-coaster ride of praise for God alternating with trust in self and pursuit of my your own glory? Are you as different from Nebuchadnezzar as you'd like to think?
- 3.) Will said, "Pride blinds us from seeing our true selves or our true King accurately." How does it do that, and how have you experienced that in your life (i.e. What is an area of your life where you are tempted to pride in what you've accomplished)?
- 4.) Read together "Ozymandias" by Percy Shelley. How does it paint a poetic picture of the emptiness and vanity of our feelings of grandeur?
- 5.) Why do you think God turned Nebuchadnezzar into a beast? Was it punishment fit the crime, gracious discipline to bring him to his senses, or both? Can it be both?
- 6.) Will said, "Just as the prince in the movie has to learn as a beast to love and that true beauty lies within, Nebuchadnezzar has to learn as a beast to bow and that true power lies above. He has to see himself as "nothing" to see God as "everything." What has God taught you, or what do you think he is teaching you, in your "nothingness"?
- 7.) Do you think Nebuchadnezzar is truly converted to faith in YHWH in this story? Why or why not?
- 8.) Have you ever wondered how someone could love you if they really knew the "beast" you are inside? How does the magnificence of God's grace to Nebuchadnezzar in this story make you feel?
- 9.) Do you share God's heart for the lost as Daniel demonstrates in verses 19 and 27? Who needs to hear the hope of the gospel from you? Whom have you given up on that you need to start praying for again? How does God's grace encourage you toward this?



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