

Old Testament Survey

Daniel



More Than A Lion Tamer



**NEVER SAY
NEVER**

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Daniel



More Than A Lion Tamer

Main Point

Humility is like a minivan, it has value, it's honest, and it's helpful



How Did We Get Here?

- ❑ Prophecies of Jeremiah
- ❑ God's people didn't obey Him
- ❑ They would be overtaken for 70 years
- ❑ This time is coming to an end



I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: “Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws

Daniel 9: 4-5 NIV



**We have not listened to your servants the prophets,
who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and
our ancestors, and to all the people of the land**

Daniel 9: 6 NIV



“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, LORD, because we have sinned against you.

Daniel 9: 7-8 NIV



The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets.

Daniel 9: 9-10 NIV



All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. “Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.

Daniel 9: 11 NIV



You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.

Daniel 9: 12 NIV



Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

Daniel 9: 13-14 NIV



Daniel Values God

- ❑ Recognizes how big God is
- ❑ God is righteous
- ❑ God does what He says
- ❑ These are characteristics to value





We Should Value God

- ❑ Think about how AWE-some God is
- ❑ God will keep His promises to us
- ❑ God has the power to do what He says



We Should Value Others

- ❑ “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)
- ❑ God values people
- ❑ Vent about others to God



Daniel Is Honest With God

- ❑ Daniel prays about the mistakes God's people have made
- ❑ They didn't listen
- ❑ They outright disobeyed
- ❑ They gave into the pressures around them





Be Honest

- ❑ “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)
- ❑ God already knows everything



Be Honest With Ourselves

- ❑ Be honest about the good and the yucky
- ❑ It's not fun and it's not pretty
- ❑ Then why the heck should we do it Geoff!?!?



Be Honest With God

- ❑ This is where the growth happens
- ❑ Not being honest creates a wall between us and God
- ❑ God cares about us coming to Him



Self Reflection

- ❑ Be honest about the good
- ❑ Be honest about the sins - don't sugarcoat this
- ❑ Resolve to approach God and be honest about it all with Him



“Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.

Daniel 9: 15 NIV



Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

Daniel 9: 16 NIV



“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

Daniel 9: 17-18 NIV



Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

Daniel 9: 19 NIV



Daniel Asks For Help

- ❑ Daniel knows God can help
- ❑ Daniel asks in a way that makes it about God
- ❑ The people didn't deserve help but Daniel still asked



Midwest vs Everybody.

I'm in awe of people who directly ask others to do something.

I start by apologizing for bothering them, ask if they'd mind if I ask a question, reassure there's no rush but WHEN THEY HAVE A CHANCE, could they move their car because it's on my foot?

Then I worry I made them mad.

Ask God For Help

- ❑ Admit we can't do it on our own
- ❑ We won't bother God by asking
- ❑ Ask others to go to God for you
- ❑ Be a little more Daniel and a little less Midwest



Wrap Up

- ❑ Be people of humility
- ❑ Value God
- ❑ Be honest with yourself and with God
- ❑ Ask God for help



Audio file

[Daniel 9 Humility Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

I was talking about favorite cars and partly I was thinking about the car I drive. I drive an awesome Red minivan sits right out there. Nice Sienna. Now here's the thing. All through my life. Until I had children, I swore I would never drive a minivan. And like, you're not supposed to swear and take oaths I preached. On that last. Year I swore I will never drive. I now drive a minivan. There's a shirt I should own. Becky, you can put this up here. It's going to pop up in a second. Here in my sermon, I didn't want to drive a minivan because I didn't think it was cool, right? Never say never. I don't own the shirt, I should because I said never and now I drive it all the time. This was a humbling experience for me. I thought I wanted to be awesome and cool. I was going to drive a suburban if I was going to tote kids around. I have a. Minivan and I actually love that car. Now I I never even want to drive Stacy's car or vibe. I just want to drive my minivan. Because we needed it. But it made it me feel so humble, like I wasn't going to do this, and now I do. And today we're going to talk about humility. And I was thinking about this sermon this week, and I'm like, man, what do I want to say about humility? And no. Joke Friday I was going to take my daughter to preschool. I walked out into the garage and I looked at my van and I said this humility. Is like a minivan. It's got value, it's honest and it's helpful. So that's we're gonna talk about today. Humility is like a minivan that is content. You will get nowhere else except right here for me. Probably humidity is like a minivan, and we're going to see humility from Daniel. We're just doing 2 weeks last weekend this week on Daniel, who is most famously known for the Lions den, and taming the Lions and everything. But we're talking about our. Characteristics that Daniel shows that shows he's more than just this lion tamer. Last week we talked about how he was a man who depended. On God today, we're going to focus on a prayer that Daniel Perez and Daniel 9 and. It shows a. Whole lot of humility before we dive into that prayer I want to. Give us a quick how do we get to this prayer? Cause he prays some big stuff. I want to give us a little setup of how we got there. So what Daniel does is he actually refers back to two old. Estimate prophecies from. Jeremiah Jeremiah 25:11 through 12 says this this whole country will become a desolate wasteland. These nations will serve the King of Babylon 70 years when the 70 years are fulfilled. I will punish the King of Babylon and his nation. The land of the Babylonians for their guilt, declares the Lord and will make it desolate forever. Then Jeremiah 29:10. Says this is what the Lord says when the 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you, fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. So the land of Judah did not obey God and they were taken over by Babylon. We talked a little bit about that last. What the prophecy is saying is they're going to be ruled for 70 years, and at that point, after the 70 years, God will restore his people and bring them back. Now we're not exactly sure on the timing here, but it seems to be that when Daniel praised us, we're getting close to that neighborhood of what would have been those 70 years. So what Daniel does is he prays about it. He dresses in sackcloth, he fasts, he praises his all very culturally relevant. For the time and he prays on behalf of himself and on behalf of all God's people to say hey. Do what you said you were going to do. Restore us and when he prays he shows humility. We're going to look at 3 aspects of humility, same as the. Minivan and then how we can show those same things in our lives. So we're going to read the first chunk of the prayer. This is going to be Daniel 9 versus 4 through 14. It'll be up here, behind me. It'll be

marked there in your Bibles. If you want to follow along. But here is Daniel 9 four through 14. I prayed to the Lord my God and confess. Lord the Great and Awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments. We've sinned and done wrong. We've been wicked and have rebelled. We have turned away from your commands and laws. We've not listened to your servants, the prophets who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. Lord, you are righteous. But this day we are covered with shame. The people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far in all the countries where you have scattered us because of your unfaithfulness. You, we and our kings are princes, and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we've rebelled against him, we've not obeyed the Lord our God, or kept the laws he gave us through his. Servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing. To obey you. Therefore, the curses and sworn judgments written in the law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us because we have sinned against you. You fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great. Master under the whole heaven, nothing has ever been done like what's been done to Jerusalem, just as it is written in the law of Moses. All this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of our Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does. That we have not obeyed him. We're going to look at two things out of these verses and the first one is the. Value humility shows value because it recognizes the value of God. Basically, how big and how important God is. This can be a humbling thing to realize. He's that big. So what Daniel does is he talks about God in a way that shows reverence. He says God has steadfast love, not a love that runs out or has these strict. He says that God keeps his promises, right? God's always going to follow through on his promise. In contrast to that with kind of the human condition where we will inevitably break promises. But God never does. That's something to value and respect. And the fact that God is sovereign over everything, meaning God just has control and domain over everything. He's that much authority. And he says God is righteous. He will always uphold morality. He always has right on his side. He cannot do wrong, right. He can't do evil. He can't blemish himself. People can. We can. But God just can't do it. But then when we do blemish ourselves, when we do sin, God is the one that can restore us and bring us back and make it right. He does that by forgiveness and mercy. And finally, God says something and he backs it up right now. In this case it was difficult because God says I'm going to bring destruction and captivity and all this bad things punishment. But he still does it. He says there would be consequences if the people disobeyed him and he brought them. It's not easy to stomach, but he did it. He followed. Through there were no empty words. He's as strong as he claims to be. God has value to Daniel. Think about things that you value. Right value would be like the. Regard in which we hold on to something, right. You might value something really highly or something kind of in the middle or something, maybe. A little bit low. And that comes in so many different forms. Right. There might be something monetary. You have something that's got monetary value. My guitar, I would say have value highly with the money, but then there's sentimental things and I brought one. This has a lot of sentimental value. To me. This is like a ceramic acorn. OK, now Stacy's smiling cause she knows all about this. This acorn is filled with M&M's. Always right. Eminent. So this was my grandma's. And what I remember. We go to my grandma's house when I. She's a classic grandma. Go through the kitchen and she wants to feed you. There's all these little chicken salad sandwiches on the table. We'd run right through the kitchen and get to the acorn, right, cause the acorn always had M&M's in it when she passed away a few years ago, we had to share memories. I got to be the one to get up and share a

bunch of memories at her memorial, and I said, ma'am. When I think about my grandma, I think about M&M's and all the. Family in the room. Laughed because they got it this. So when she passed away, this came to me. And it's huge to me because it always sits by my front door. You ever come to my house sits on a sofa table right by the door. Open it up. Always help yourself to M&M's that's like this is valuable thing to. Me I value. It because it. Means so much. Put it in a high regard. Now, how does valuing somebody? This is a thing, but somebody show humility. I think it's because it takes the focus off ourselves and puts it somewhere else. Daniel is valuing God and we should value God similarly to how Daniel did. How awesome. God is. Let's use that word. Think about the prefix. Remember somebody describing that when you say God's awesome, think about being in awe of somebody, right? It would be like for me if I went all, like fanboying over an athlete or a musician being like, Oh my gosh, you're really him right there. It it's you think about that with God, you're really him. You're really the God that made everything the God that created everything that that loves me. You're really. For him. Think about fanboying or fangirling over God. That value, that impressiveness, that God brings value him in the sense that he'll keep his promises. We talked about this a little bit on Easter. If you were here, that God's credible and he'll do what he says, he'll do. Well, one thing he says he'll do is keep his covenants or which are promises. We believe that God will keep his promises of not abandoning us, of giving us unlimited grace. And then think about valuing God as the God that has this crazy amount of power to do what he says he's going. To do now in Daniel's case it. Was punishment then restoration. Now we might not think of that as something to value the fact. That God punished him, but it it just shows his power that he's going to follow through, but that he can also restore. With forgiveness and mercy, and that strength is something to value. It is a strength that will hold up to the test of time, no matter what gets thrown ahead. So value God. I think we also value God by valuing others, and this one can be a little bit harder. But Philippians 2-3 says do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourself. We're supposed to value others now. This is whether you like them or you can't stand them. Whether they annoy you or they're your best friend, they have value and you may not think they don't have value directly to. But recognize that they do have worth no matter what. You may not respect everything they're about or or them as a person, but we're still supposed to value them. Because God does look at them through the lens of God. Put the Jesus goggles on for a minute. He came to Earth and he died for their sins. Just like he did for mine for hours. You can think. Hey, man, that person just made me so mad, right? They're so irritating. Or and. And man, I wouldn't mind if something bad happened to them. That's not a good way to think. But we've been there. I think most of us have been there. But go to God about them. Even if it's just to vent, I actually think this is OK we don't talk about, hey, go to God to vent about somebody. But if we're going to God to vent, at least we're going to God about them, and we're recognizing that, hey, God, I need to talk to you about this person and then let God. Come over you to say hey. They still have value to me to God because you're going to a God that you value to a God that values you and values that other person. So I think part of humility is valuing others, cause it's stepping back from ourselves and realizing the value God has and others have. So value is the first. The second one is honesty. Daniel is very honest about Israel and the mistakes they have made, and Daniel's included in this right. Daniel's a part of this, but he intercedes on Israel's behalf. He prays for them and for himself, and this is a confession and a true confession has to be honest. Daniel is basically saying to God we sinned. God, we messed up in a big way. We we didn't listen. We just straight up did not. It's easy for me to ask someone else, my kids or anybody else. Hey, did you listen to me? Did you hear what I say?

OK.

It's a lot harder to say no. I just didn't listen. But that's what he's saying they did. Daniel talks about their shame, their embarrassment for what they've done and what's happened. They lost everything. It's because they didn't listen or obey God. It's on them. And this wasn't just a little screw up. This is outright disobedience to God. It's like Daniel saying we knew what we should have done, we went the other way. Then the punishment comes and Daniel, like we still did. Nothing they gave in to the pressures around them, the culture, the things that seemed better, even though they knew they were wrong. And Daniel has to be honest about it. He's got to come to God, confess it and be honest. We can only be honest, I think, if we're maybe reflecting on ourselves. Who here has ever had to do some sort of self reflection or self evaluation for work or school? They ask you about, hey, how are you doing? I'm seeing a lot of heads not right, no else. You're all super honest on these, right? Completely honest about everything. There's some laughter. Some reason? Yeah, I totally am. Right. Maybe have to rate yourself. How did you do on this? From I was excellent. All the way down to I was OK or I was poor. You know, they always ask for you. Add your comments and it's like, you know, I like to write. I just, I just work too gosh darn hard. And I need to let other people do it. We all have ways of phrasing these things that we think are honest. But make it sound good. But we're supposed to be honest and self reflect, and I think that's important and it's important to be honest. It shows humility because it helps us remember. We're not perfect. If we're taking a true self. Look, it's OK. We're not supposed to be perfect. Proverbs 28:13 says whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Now, this may sound a little backwards because I can think I watch Stacy now, watch all our legal shows. Right. If the bad guy confesses, they get punished. But if they hide it, nobody knows they did. It and they run away. Right now, that might work. If God wasn't everywhere and all knowing. Except he is. He knows what we've already done. And in order to come to God and be honest, I think the first thing we need to do is be honest with ourselves to admit our own faults and mistakes to ourselves. And I think that one way when I noticed this or when I know I need to reflect them myself. So when I start to really notice the faults of other people, and I remember a Little League baseball coach once saying we had a bad game and we're doing the typical 10 year old thing and arguing with each other. He'd say. When. You start pointing out fingers. You have three more. Point right back. At you. So you need to look at yourself. When you start seeing those false looks. At yourself now. This isn't fun. To be honest about our own sins, our own mistakes and all the yucky stuff in our life, it's not pretty and it can sometimes make us feel really bad about ourselves, but that's not the point. Humility isn't about beating ourselves up, but admitting that we did make a mistake or we did sin, and we need to get better. Need to do better. We need to be honest with ourselves. Because once we're honest with ourselves. We can be honest with God, and once we're honest with God, that's where our growth can really happen. God already knows my mistakes. My screw ups, my sins. He's already forgiven him. Jesus came and gave the ultimate show of humility and put all my screw ups on his back and paid for it. He did that for. You too, God already knows that sometimes we're still hesitant to tell him. And it can be because of embarrassment or shame or guilt. Take your pick. But if we're not honest with God, our relationship with him can't grow. It's like we're creating a wall or a distance between us and God. He doesn't want that there. Right. He wants us to break that down and we should too. I believe God. Cares more about us coming to him about our mistakes and being honest with him than he does about what we actually did. So I would encourage you to take a little bit of a self self-assessment on yourself. Look at the good. In your life and the things you've overcome. Be honest about that. Go ahead, because that's important too. But then look at the sin and don't sugarcoat it or make excuses for it. Just say this is where I messed up. Don't beat around the bush to say this is it. This is the messy and the ugly, but I wanna do something

about it. And then take that to God and watch your relationship with God grow over time because you're being honest with yourself and being honest with him, to be honest. So value and honesty, those are actually humility. Let's look at the final one. It's going to be help asking for help. We're going to read Daniel 9:1 through 19. This is kind of the end of the prayer. Now Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we've sinned, and we have done wrong, Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts. Turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill, our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors. Have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. Now our God hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, O our God, and here open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Lord, listen, Lord forgive or hear and act. For your sake, O my God, do not delay because your city and your people bear your name. Daniel appeals to God for mercy, saying God help us take mercy on us. Save us. Daniel knows God is who can help. Daniel knows. God says he'll deliver, so we asked him to do it right. Novel approach. We need something this person can help. So we ask for it. And the way Daniel goes about it is. Kind of cool. He makes it about God. Right. Not not so much about him or even the people he's praying on behalf of, he's saying. God, your land. God, your. Sacred Perfect Land is in ruins. God, your city is in trouble. God, your people are in trouble is to save them. Show the power of your name by saving us and saving your land. Restore it. Be stronger. And these Pagan Babylonian gods that these people worship. Now Daniel will benefit from this when God comes through, but he's not being super selfish. He's making it bigger. He's almost saying God make us a better representation of you. The people didn't deserve the help. Because of what they've done, but they needed. God's going to bring it, but the point is? Daniel asked. How many of you are honestly good at asking for help? I see no hands. I mean, you like to ask for help. Why don't we like to ask for help? Yeah, right. It's also kind of like a Midwestern thing, right? We're known in the Midwest for not being good at asking for help. I found one of these like Midwestern versus everybody jokes that says I mean, a lot of people who directly ask others to do something. I start by apologizing for bothering them, ask if they mind if I ask a question, reassure there's no rush. But when they have a chance, could they move their car because it's on my foot and then I worry I. Made them mad. This is kind of the general, we just don't want. To ask for help. No matter what, we don't want ask for help and I'm with all of you. I hate asking for help, I. Don't do it either. I'm with with all of you, by the way. It's not easy because we're admitting we can't do it on our own. That's we said pride. That's exactly what it is. But there's nothing inherently wrong with asking for help. That really isn't. So why? Why don't we ask God for help? Why don't we ask God? Maybe we think it's not important enough. Maybe we think it's not something God cares about. Maybe we've asked God before. We didn't like the answer or we don't want to bother God or whatever. We could keep going, but the fact is, there's just so many times we don't go to God and ask. But he wants us to ask, goes back to last week. We talked about depending on God. We depend on God and we go to him in prayer in Matthew Chapter 6, Jesus teaches on prayer and this is when we get the Lord's prayer. If you go back and look at Matthew 6 and he encourages them to not ramble on on and on like some people do and say a bunch of words thinking all the more, I say the more I do. The more I talk to God, the bigger words that will help him hear it and answer better. He's like no God already knows what you need. Just come and ask. You can't be a bother to God. I get bothered as a parent when my kids come to me incessantly. I was on my porch this week writing this sermon. We have these big windows that we open up and the kids are in the backyard and the trampoline. I'm sitting there writing it and I sit down to. Start working

and. All of a sudden, it's dad this ball needs. Air in it to go and put air in the ball. Get back in. Sit down. Dad, this ball went out of the trampoline. Dad, bring out our waters. Dad, I have to go. Potty, I get super bothered when they just keep coming and keep asking if you're a parent. You kind of know. This goes we can't bother God. He has the patience for that. In fact, God delights in that because we're his kids coming to ask him for something. And we're remembering that we need him and that we can't do it on our own. Now, sometimes, maybe we just, man, we're like I I can't do it. I don't quite feel comfortable asking God for something. Think about asking somebody to go to God for you. We use the word interceding. Have somebody pray for you. That's basically what Daniel is doing here. He's praying for himself, but also on behalf of a bunch of other people. James, 516 says confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed the prayer. Or a righteous person is powerful and effective. Pray for each other. When you need to pick me up or you need somebody to help you out, ask them to pray for you. There is a lot of power in that. All right. God would like it if you ask other people to pray for you. We have a prayer page on our website that we don't talk about a lot, but you can submit prayer requests that way that will get to us and we can pass it out to our leaders to pray for you. And you can even do it anonymously if that's easier for you. But if you need it, ask people to pray for you. I think when it comes to asking for help, let's think of it as being a little more Daniel and a little less Midwest. All right, ask for help. But overall, let's be people of humility. Right. So let's look at it again as. We wrap it up. B people of humility start by valuing God, put him up on a pedestal. Who God is. And then value God by valuing others, recognizing they have worth. And be honest, be honest with yourself and be honest with God. If you need to write out some sort of self reflection or draw it or take mental notes or however you do it, I'd encourage you to do it. Be honest with yourself and then take that and go to God and shorten up any distance that might be there between you and God, or break down the wall by being honest. And then when you need something, ask God directly or through someone else. And remember you won't bother him, but you'll bring him to light when you ask because he wants you to come to him. But overall, let's be people like Daniel and people of humility. Got to thank you for just this prayer that Daniel prayed and God that he had. The humility to come to you in prayer and to to to show your value, God to, to be honest and to. Ask for help. God, I pray that we would show all of those parts of humility in our own lives and that you would. You would work through us and those God that you would continue to nudge us that you just want us to come to you when we need help, that you. Want us? To be honest with you, so got up there this week. We would all take a look. At you and at our lives and see the value that you have in our lives. God, that we would be honest with ourselves and with you and God. If there is something we need. That we wouldn't be shy about coming to you. But we would boldly approach you and say God, please help. We thank you for that. Your name.