



stand & LOVE FIRM well

**How to be Faithful to God and Genuinely Love Others
When Engaging Culture that is at Odds with Faith in Jesus**

Part 6

How to Effectively Communicate Caring and Concerned Counsel

Daniel 4:1

**King Nebuchadnezzar sent this
message to the people of every
race and nation and language
throughout the world:**

“Peace and prosperity to you!

Daniel 4:2

**I want you all to know about
the miraculous signs and wonders
the Most High God has performed
for me.**

Daniel 4:3

**How great are his signs,
how powerful his wonders!
His kingdom will last forever,
his rule through all generations.**

Daniel 4:4

**I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my
palace in comfort and prosperity.**

Daniel 4:5

But one night I had a dream that frightened me; I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed.

Daniel 4:6

So I issued an order calling in all the wise men of Babylon, so they could tell me what my dream meant.

Daniel 4:7

When all the magicians,
enchanters, astrologers, and
fortune-tellers came in, I told them
the dream, but they could not tell
me what it meant.

Daniel 4:8

**At last Daniel came in before me,
and I told him the dream.**

**(He was named Belteshazzar after
my god, and the spirit of the holy
gods is in him.)**

Daniel 4:9

I said to him, 'Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too great for you to solve. Now tell me what my dream means.'

Daniel 4:10a

While I was lying in my bed,
this is what I dreamed.

Daniel 4:18a

**Belteshazzar, that was the dream
that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had.**

**Now tell me what it means,
for none of the wise men of my
kingdom can do so.**

Daniel 4:18b

But you can tell me because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.'

Daniel 4:19a

Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him,

Daniel 4:19b

‘Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.’

Belteshazzar replied, ‘I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!’

Daniel 4:20

The tree you saw was growing very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see.

Daniel 4:21

**It had fresh green leaves and was
loaded with fruit for all to eat.
Wild animals lived in its shade,
and birds nested in its branches.**

Daniel 4:22

**That tree, your Majesty, is you. For
you have grown strong and great;
your greatness reaches up to
heaven, and your rule to the ends
of the earth.**

Daniel 4:23a

Then you saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, “Cut down the tree and destroy it. But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and

Daniel 4:23b

**bronze and surrounded by tender
grass. Let him be drenched with the
dew of heaven. Let him live with
the animals of the field for seven
periods of time.**

Daniel 4:24

**This is what the dream means,
your Majesty, and what the Most
High has declared will happen to
my lord the king.**

Daniel 4:25a

You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of

Daniel 4:25b

heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.

Daniel 4:26

But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again when you have learned that heaven rules.

Daniel 4:27a

Therefore, your Majesty, please accept my advice. Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed.

Daniel 4:27b

**Perhaps then you will continue
to prosper.'**



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Principle #1

Effectively communicating caring and concerned counsel to others, requires their invitation.

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palace in comfort and prosperity.**

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**‘Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by
the dream and what it means.’**

Principle #1

Effectively communicating caring and concerned counsel to others, requires their invitation.

Principle #2

Holy Spirit imparted wisdom, truth and counsel is radically different than your personal opinion and a Bible verse.

Daniel 4:19a

Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream.

Principle #2

Holy Spirit imparted wisdom, truth and counsel is radically different than your personal opinion and a Bible verse.

Principle #3

**We have the responsibility of
balancing the reality of God's Word
with the reality of His loving
acceptance and life changing grace.**

Daniel 4:19b

‘Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.’

Belteshazzar replied, ‘I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!’

Nebuchadnezzar's History

In 2 Kings 25 he murdered King Zedekiah's sons right in front of him and then put out Zedekiah's eyes so that the last thing he ever saw was the brutal death of his own boys.

**He conquered nation after nation,
slaughtered millions of people,
displaced entire nations, and took
hostage millions of slaves for the
express purpose of building his
golden city of Babylon; all of which
was to magnify his glory.**

Principle #3

**We have the responsibility of
balancing the reality of God's Word
with the reality of His loving
acceptance and life changing grace.**

Romans 9:1

**With Christ as my witness, I speak
with utter truthfulness. My
conscience and the Holy Spirit
confirm it.**

Romans 9:2

**My heart is filled with bitter sorrow
and unending grief for my people,
my Jewish brothers and sisters.**

Romans 9:3

**I would be willing to be forever
cursed, cut off from Christ, if that
would save them.**

Principle #3

**We have the responsibility of
balancing the reality of God's Word
with the reality of His loving
acceptance and life changing grace.**

Principle #4

Truth without grace is mean.

Grace without truth is meaningless.

God's Message to the King

- You are going to lose your mind.
- You are going to live in the wild like an animal.
- You will eat grass from the ground.

God's Message to the King

- You will roam around naked.
- This will go on for 7 “times”.
- This will go on until you
acknowledge that God is the
real King of Kings.

God's Message to the King

- God may extend your prosperity as king if you renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed.

Principle #4

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Grace without truth is meaningless.

Principle #5

In an effort to redeem someone's soul, God often has to teach very hard and painful lessons that can be very hard to watch.

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Therefore, your Majesty, please accept my advice. Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed.

Daniel 4:27b

**Perhaps then you will continue
to prosper.'**

Daniel 4:28

**But all these things did happen to
King Nebuchadnezzar.**

Daniel 4:29

**Twelve months later he was taking
a walk on the flat roof of the royal
palace in Babylon.**

Daniel 4:30a

As he looked out across the city, he said, 'Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.'

Daniel 4:31

While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, 'O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom.

Daniel 4:32a

You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow.

Daniel 4:32b

Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.'

Daniel 4:33a

That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society.

Daniel 4:33b

**He ate grass like a cow, and he was
drenched with the dew of heaven.
He lived this way until his hair was
as long as eagles' feathers and his
nails were like birds' claws.**

Nebuchadnezzar's Lessons

- **God is God, not you.**
- **God is able to humble the proud.**
- **Everything you have and everything you have accomplished is because of God.**

Nebuchadnezzar's Lessons

- **You may have all the power in the world over others, but your power is nothing in comparison to the power of God.**
- **You need to stop sinning, and you need to do what is right.**

Principle #5

In an effort to redeem someone's soul, God often has to teach very hard and painful lessons that can be very hard to watch.

Principle #6

**Genuine “Come to Jesus” moments
are usually fueled by genuine,
redemptive shame.**

Genuine redemptive shame is produced as a result of our rebellion and sin before God. It occurs when our sin is exposed before God and, at times, before other people, so that our rejection and shame can propel us into the arms of God.

Principle #7

The goal of effectively communicating caring and concerned counsel to others is their confession, repentance, and redemption.

Daniel 4:34a

**After this time had passed, I,
Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to
heaven. My sanity returned, and I
praised and worshiped the Most
High and honored the one who
lives forever.**

Daniel 4:34b

**His rule is everlasting,
and his kingdom is eternal.**

Daniel 4:35a

All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth.

Daniel 4:35b

**No one can stop him or say to him,
‘What do you mean by doing
these things?’**

Daniel 4:36

**When my sanity returned to me,
so did my honor and glory and
kingdom. My advisers and nobles
sought me out, and I was restored
as head of my kingdom, with even
greater honor than before.**

Daniel 4:37

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.”



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