

Daniel 4:1-2

Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

I think it's safe to say that we all have loved ones that are not following the Lord or have backslidden, and it breaks our hearts to know that they are not turning to the Lord. So, in our love for them we try and do things to help them out. We pay their rent, give them a place to stay, buy them food, pay some or all of their bills, give them wise counsel, etc... Which are good things, showing our love for them.

But sometimes we are actually loving them straight into hell. I know that sounds crazy, yet there are times that the Lord is wanting to do a work in them, showing Himself to them, yet we keep getting in the way and all they see is us as a way out of the predicament they got themselves into, or as no need to turn to the Lord because they have us, who appear to be (or maybe you are) approving of their sinful lifestyle.

Let me give you all (and myself) one bit of advice, and that is to read Daniel chapter four (4), it should take all of five minutes to do so. The reason I say this is that king Nebuchadnezzar was a very wealthy and mighty king, and he got to the point that he thought that the world revolved around him. And God tried to tell him so, through a dream that God gave king Nebuchadnezzar, with the prophet Daniel interpreting that dream. And he heard the interpretation and what God was telling him for about a year, then his pride kicked in again and went back to thinking that he was all that again.

† **Daniel 4:29-30** *At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"*

And the result was what God showed king Nebuchadnezzar in a dream a year earlier and Daniel interpreting that dream came to pass a year later, just as God said it would.

† **Daniel 4:28** *All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.*

And as a result this is what happened to king Nebuchadnezzar

† **Daniel 4:31-32** *While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."*

Simply put, he went wacko or crazy, and today he would had been put in the funny farm... Or would he? You see, today, so many may have been around the king and even though he went crazy, they still would had done everything they could to help him and make him feel comfortable, after all, he was the king. But we don't read of anyone doing that, because God had to do a work in king Nebuchadnezzar, and anyone trying to help him out would had prolonged what God was doing in his heart. But there is a happy ending to this story, as king Nebuchadnezzar's sanity came back to him as he realized that;

† **Daniel 4:34-35** *And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

But once again, it only happened when others allowed God to do the work in king Nebuchadnezzar that God needed to do to bring the king to his senses.

I'm sure we can all think back on those moments when it seemed everyone turned their backs on us, but the end result is that it brought us to, or back to the Lord, as He had to break us of ourselves. So, maybe you have been helping someone that you have been loving a little, or even to much so that God is not able to get ahold of their heart. Just as God needed to break king Nebuchadnezzar so that he could hear God, and as God needed to break us during those times, God may need to do the same thing, or something for the one you love as well.

I would encourage you to pray about it, and honestly ask the Lord what you should do, or stop doing so that He can reach the person that you love and save him or her or them.

† **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

† **Isaiah 55:11** *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*