

Title: Keep It To Yourself - Daniel 7 15-28

Read:

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ "But as for me, Daniel, I was disturbed. All these dream-visions had me agitated. So I went up to one of those standing by and asked him the meaning of all this. And he told me, interpreting the dream for me: ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ "These four huge animals,' he said, 'mean that four kingdoms will appear on earth. But eventually the holy people of the High God will be given the kingdom and have it ever after—yes, forever and ever.' ¹⁹⁻²² "But I wanted to know more. I was curious about the fourth animal, the one so different from the others, the hideous monster with the iron teeth and the bronze claws, gulping down what it ripped to pieces and trampling the leftovers into the dirt. And I wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and the other horn that sprouted up while three of the original horns were removed. This new horn had eyes and a big mouth and spoke arrogantly, dominating the other horns. I watched as this horn was making war on God's holy people and getting the best of them. But then The Old One intervened and decided things in favor of the people of the High God. In the end, God's holy people took over the kingdom. ²³⁻²⁵ "The bystander continued, telling me this: 'The fourth animal is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from the first three kingdoms, a monster kingdom that will chew up everyone in sight and spit them out. The ten horns are ten kings, one after another, that will come from this kingdom. But then another king will arrive. He will be different from the earlier kings. He will begin by toppling three kings. Then he will blaspheme the High God, persecute the followers of the High God, and try to get rid of sacred worship and moral practice. God's holy people will be persecuted by him for a time, two times, half a time. ²⁶⁻²⁷ "But when the court comes to order, the horn will be stripped of its power and totally destroyed. Then the royal rule and the authority and the glory of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the people of the High God. Their royal rule will last forever. All other rulers will serve and obey them.' ²⁸ "And there it ended. I, Daniel, was in shock. I was like a man who had seen a ghost. But I kept it all to myself."

Think:

I find it interesting that Daniel chose to keep his worries to himself. Why would he do that, is that what we are told to do? If you are being bullied at school does God want you to keep it to yourself? If you are finding college hard, and falling behind with your work, does God say keep your head down, shut up, and carry on. I'm not sure that that is the example that Jesus gave us. If you look at the way Jesus worked he had hundreds of followers, but he surrounded himself with twelve close mates and even within these twelve he had one or two very close mates. Is this an example of keeping things to yourself? No it's not, is it. If we are to follow this example then we to might want to go out of our way to find some close mates who we can talk to and be honest with. This might be a group a school or college, or maybe a group at church. It needs to be group of people who can challenge us and a group we can tell our concerns to knowing that they will keep it to themselves. For some of us this is really easy and we love making friends and hanging around with people. But are we able to know who are the people we can trust? For others of us it's hard to make friends and we will have to really try to get to know just a couple of people. However once we make friends we know we can trust them. Either way keeping things to yourself doesn't seem to be an option for a Christian that wants to move on in their relationship with God. Daniel has hit a spot in his life when he could do with a small group of friends to help, what happens to you when you need that Christian advice from friends? I pray that you would know where to go.

Pray:

Father please surround me with Christian friends who I can trust to help me get to know you better. Amen.

Action:

Well it's not good saying I don't have any mates. If you are not part of a small group of Christians who meet regularly, are you just going to sit there? Or do you have the guts to find a group, or even start one? Bye.