**The Son of Man**

**The Word**

Read together Daniel 7:1-14.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Daniel 7 is a wild vision with some powerful images. What struck you most from the vision?

2. How did considering Jesus as the Son of Man add to your understanding of and appreciation for who he is?

3. On Sunday the question was asked: where do you feel the world trying to conform you to its mold and values? Where do worldly values get a hold on your heart and mind? How would you answer that for yourself?

4. In your life right now, what would it look like to live faithfully to Jesus and his kingdom even in the midst of living in the kingdoms of the world? Does anything specific come to mind?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Context of Daniel

 A. Written while Israel was in Exile in Babylon

B. Written to encourage the people that God would win in the end and to strengthen them to live faithfully even while in exile

II. Daniel 7

 A. Scene 1: The four beasts (v. 1-8)

1. They represent kingdoms of the world that are beastly and that assert themselves through power and violence (see v. 15-17)

2. Daniel’s audience (living in Babylon) knew exactly what it felt like to live under the oppression of the beasts.

B. Scene 2: The throne room/ court room of God (v. 9-12)

 1. Thrones are set in place meaning we’ll see who truly has authority

 2. God is the Ancient of Days attended by thousands of angels

3. The court was seated, the books were opened. So God is going to pronounce his judgment and render his verdict on the situation.

-His verdict is that the beasts will be stripped of their authority and ultimately destroyed (v. 11-12)

C. Scene 3: The Son of Man (v. 13-14)

 1. He is one “like a son of man.” He is human, a son of Adam, an image bearer

 2. He comes in heavenly glory: “on the clouds of heaven”

3. He is led to the Ancient of Days and given an everlasting kingdom. In contrast to the beasts who assert themselves and violently pursue their kingdoms, the Son of Man is simply given the kingdom by God which is everlasting

a. The son of man represents/is a symbol for the people of God (see v. 17-18 and v. 26-27). So this is a message to God’s faithful that no matter what they are suffering at the hands of the kingdoms of the world now, one day God will set everything right and they will receive an everlasting kingdom

b. But the son of man is also an individual. So it seems as though his victory is the people’s victory.

III. Jesus as the Son of Man

A. “Son of Man” was Jesus’ most common way to refer to himself

 B. His “son of man” sayings fall into three general categories

1. His authority on earth (ala Mk 2:10, 2:28)

2. His suffering, rejection, and death (ala Mk 8:31)

3. His future coming in glory (ala Mt 19:28)

C. His most significant use of the term is Matthew 26:64

While on trial for his life he declares that one day the tables will be turned and the religious leaders will see him coming in glory as they will have to stand trial before him

IV. Living today with Jesus as the Son of Man

A. When we’re going through suffering at the hands of the world, we live by faith that in the end God wins, and Jesus’ kingdom is the one that will last.

B. That faith enables us to faithfully walk in the way of Jesus even when it feels like his way is on the losing side

C. Where do you feel the pressure of the kingdoms of the world, and how can you live faithfully in the midst of that? (e.g. Injustice, fear/anxiety, pressures to conform to the culture, etc.)