

Daniel

3 – Bad Dreams and Backs against the Wall

Daniel 2.1-30

Nebuchadnezzar

- Shaken (v.1-2)
- Rash (v.3-6)
- Distrustful (v.7-9)
- Arrogant (v.10-11)
- Angry (v.12-13)

Daniel's Three Statements

Why the hurry? (v.14-16)

- Yet another display of Daniel's Wisdom – the opposite of the rashness of Nebuchadnezzar
 - Sometimes the best thing we can offer a moment or crisis is our patience – not our passivity, but an active waiting that processes before responding
- Being the first to react is not a virtue even though it's a value in our current climate

We need to pray (v.17-23)

- We – do you have pallbearers, people you call when your back is against the wall?
 - Importance of groups @ church (weariness of online life)
- They prayed and waited – while they waited, God worked
 - This is the demonstration of Daniel's faith – he didn't have the answers but knew the One who did
- His prayer reflects the two attributes of focus:
 - Sovereignty – changes times, changes kings, reveals hidden / knows darkness
 - Faithfulness – gave *me* wisdom, answered *my* prayer
 - "Almost everyone believes that prayer is important. But there is a difference between believing prayer is important and believing it is essential. Essential means that there are things that will not happen without prayer." ~ Dee Duke, pastor of Jefferson Bapt in Oregon

There is a God in Heaven (v.24-30)

- Display of Daniel's courage – went right up to Arioch, part of the solution by being responsive to God's gifts / calling on his life
 - He spoke the truth about God (v.27-28)
 - He spoke the truth about himself (v.29-30)
 - He spoke the truth to Nebuchadnezzar (v.31ff)

Questions for Discussion

1. What's the most disturbing / sleep-depriving dream you can remember? Is there a consistent dream you have that disturbs you?
2. Some people are quick to react and some are much slower. Which one are you? Your spouse / the one closest to you? In the sermon, we stated that sometimes wisdom looks like an active waiting that allows you to process what's happening. Can you think of an example from your life where that proved true?
3. Who are the people you are most likely to call when your back is against the wall? For whom are you that person (the one to call)?
4. In the sermon, we reflected on the quote (stated above) about prayer not just being important but essential. Pick one of the Ephesian prayers (1.15-23 or 3.14-21) and read it. How does Paul model for the Ephesians (and us!) that prayer is both important AND essential?
5. COVID Check-in: how are you? Your family? Your neighbors? Your One that you have been praying for?