

Daniel 2
3 Tactics of the courageous believer
What to do when I don't know what to do

Welcome to CHC. We are so grateful for your presence today. If this is one of your first times, we would love to connect with you.

I heard a preacher say one time...you know half the people who are here almost didn't make it this week. So thank you!!

I pray you experience our wonderful kids ministry, our great hospitality team, our cafeteria...serving sloppy joes today after church....I pray more than anything you would experience Jesus.

We have a gift for you...but even more I believe God has a gift for you today.

Tell your neighbor...God's got something for you today. Now, tell the person you rejected...He's got something for you too!

Let me remind you to check out the Loop. Today during the second service.

If you're ready to jump into the word of God...Say I am.

We kicked off a new series last week from the book of Daniel. We are taking a chapter each week and seeing what truths God pulls out and applies to our lives today.

I know that you all come every week and take incredible notes and go home and study them...but just in case...

Review of Daniel 1 – Daniel and some of his friends were taken from Judah into Babylon. They are prisoners. They are being brainwashed essentially into the Babylonian ways.

They remained faithful to God even in the face of adversity and death.

We looked at 4 tactics the enemy uses to attack us. (Isolation, Indoctrination, Compromise, and Confusion)

As we pick up in Dan 2, (1-16) we see King Nebuchadnezzar in a predicament. He has a dream that he doesn't understand. So he did what all of us would do...he threw a temper tantrum.

Illustration: Temper Tantrum

The king wanted to know his dream, so he called all his "people." Tells them they must tell him his dream or else they were dead.

They tried to tell him that couldn't happen...but he insisted. Tell me or die.

Anger issues. Insecurity issues. Selfish issues. Know anyone like that?

Daniel and his friends were in the group that was to be killed.

Daniel caught wind of this and went to the king to ask for some more time so that he could figure it out. The king granted his request. This is where we pick up the story.

Daniel 2.17-30 ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about the matter, ¹⁸ urging them to ask the God of the heavens for mercy concerning this mystery, so Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of Babylon's wise men. ¹⁹ The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night, and Daniel praised the God of the heavens ²⁰ and declared: May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to him. ²¹ He changes the times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. ²² He reveals the deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. ²³ I offer thanks and praise to you, God of my ancestors, because you have given me wisdom and power. And now you have let me know what we asked of you, for you have let us know the king's mystery. ²⁴ Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had assigned to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He came and said to him, "Don't destroy the wise men of Babylon! Bring me before the king, and I will give him the interpretation." ²⁵ Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king and said to him, "I have found a man among the Judean exiles who can let the king know the interpretation." ²⁶ The king said in reply to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to tell me the dream I had and its interpretation?" ²⁷ Daniel answered the king, "No wise man, medium, magician, or diviner is able to make known to the king the mystery he asked about. ²⁸ But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has let King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days. Your dream and the visions that came into your mind as you lay in bed were these: ²⁹ Your Majesty, while you were in your bed, thoughts came to your mind about what will happen in the future. The revealer of mysteries has let you know what will happen. ³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but in order that the interpretation might be made known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

Pray...Thank you for this election season ending soon so we don't have to watch one more commercial.

There is a lot going on here, but I think there is a question we can answer today by looking at Daniels reaction.

I came up with 2 titles for today's message...you can pick which one applies more to you.

3 Tactics of the courageous believer OR What to do when I don't know what to do.

The first thing we see...

Vs. 17-18 | ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about the matter, ¹⁸ urging them to ask the God of the heavens for mercy concerning this mystery, so Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of Babylon's wise men.

1. Pray

Daniel goes home and tells his friends to start praying.

Notice this...when a situation or season came about in Daniels life...his convictions are what took over.

I love this was his first response. Daniel had one of our pray first bracelets on.

Sometimes in my life...I try to handle it first.

We say Jesus is Lord, but we live like logic is Lord. Don't consult your feelings first.

Daniel had convictions.

Convictions are all about the choices we make before we're challenged. Faith is our ability to act on our convictions when tested.

We are all going to be tested. Maybe you are right now.

The problems we face in this life are not random or circumstantial, they are opportunities to grow stronger in our faith.

Sometimes God has something good to come out of the tough situation. Wouldn't it be horrible that the good God wanted to bring is negated because we don't manage it correctly?

We try to handle it on our own. This is what prayer is for.

Prayer is not begging God to do something for us that He doesn't know about.

Prayer is not begging God to do something that He is reluctant to do.

Prayer is not begging God to do something He doesn't have time for.

“In prayer we persistently, faithfully, trustingly come before God, submitting ourselves to His sovereignty, confident that he is acting, right now, on our behalf.” - Peterson

The key to courage always comes back to spending time with Jesus.

We may not get the answer right away. But, **wrestling with God through persistent prayer is confirmation of true belief.**

Seek Him in the midst of your trial. Prayer is best when it becomes our instinct.

Sidenote: Don't miss the fact that Daniel went to his people first. The enemy wants to isolate you.

But we have to have people....Find your people. Godly community. Seek God on behalf of others. (Small Groups)

So what do I do when I don't know what to do...Pray
What's a strategy if I want to be bold for Christ...Pray

So Daniel and his friends pray and then...

Daniel 2.19-20 | ¹⁹ The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night, and Daniel **praised the God of the heavens.**

2. Praise

God answered his prayer and so he took the time to praise.

Vs. 20 | Praise His Name

Vs. 21 | Praises His Sovereignty

Vs. 22 | Praises His Wisdom

Vs. 23 | Praises His gifts

I think this is key...How often do we talk about our problems? With our spouse or with our kids.

How often do we sit around and praise God for who He is and what He's done. How often do we take the time for gratitude and praise God for the blessings in our lives?

Praise is adoration expressed.

You can worship silently but you can't praise silently. Praise is the expression of worship.

Praising God is saying I want you to know publicly how I feel privately. It's so good, I can't keep it to myself.

Can we get a little real today? Some of you sit in a church service and your face look like you've been sucking on a vinegar lollipop. Just mad and sour. Pastor Brad goes home discouraged...JK

If the reason you praise is because someone had to ask you...is it really praise?

Illustration: Accepting a \$100 bill willingly versus having to struggle for it.

We need to praise freely, and willingly, and sacrificially. When we think about what God has done for us and where he has brought us from and the miracles we've witnessed and the prayers he has answers...We give him praise.

Look what happens when we praise...**Psalm 22.3 | The Lord dwells in the praises of His people. (He lives there)**

If you're missing the presence of God start praising Him.

Instead of looking for reasons to ask why and say how come.....look for reasons to praise.

Every single one of us in here has reason to give God our praise.

In the good times and bad, praise can set you free.

Here is a secret...praise isn't dependent upon feelings. We try to base it off our feelings...but we see that nowhere.

Feelings come and go...we can always pivot to praise.

Notice this...They pray and then Daniel started praising before he ever went and told the King his dream.

His confidence was in the Lord.

Remember who God is
Remember who you are
Remember who we are to each other.

Pride or prison comes when we don't pivot to praise.

We pray, we praise, and finally...

3. Proclaim

After they prayer and praised Daniel ends up in front of the king. The King said...Can you tell me what this dream is all about.

Daniel 2.27-28 I ²⁷ Daniel answered the king, “No wise man, medium, magician, or diviner is able to make known to the king the mystery he asked about. ²⁸ But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has let King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days.

But there is a God in heaven. He said, you know what King...I can't, but He can!

I can't, but He can. What's going. On in your life right now that you're looking at it like this?

I can't, but he can. Proclaim (Announce I Declare) Deflecting the honor to Him.

Some of y'all are walking through some stuff right now...you need to proclaim...I know this is tough...But there is a God in heaven.

I almost entitled this sermon How big is your But....the wiser me won out.

When life is tough...Are you saying...I can't, but there is a God in heaven who can?

Psalm 96.1-4 I Sing a new song to the Lord; let the whole earth sing to the Lord.
² Sing to the Lord, bless his name; **proclaim** his salvation from day to day.
³ **Declare** his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples.
⁴ For the Lord is great and is highly praised.

So Daniel stands before the king and gives God honor. And then he interprets the dream.

It's a huge statue that represents 4 different Kingdoms/Empires. Each Kingdom will take the place of the former and then in the end...

Daniel 2.44-45 I ⁴⁴ “In the days of those kings, the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end but will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ You saw a stone break off from the mountain without a hand touching it, and it crushed the iron, bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told the king what will happen in the future. The dream is certain, and its interpretation reliable.”

Once again Daniel is proclaiming God. This is from Him. This is Gods sovereign plan.

We proclaim because we know, God is sovereign over every season of your life.

Sovereignty of God | He has the power, wisdom, and authority to do anything He chooses within His creation.

Sometimes we need to proclaim out loud like Daniel....Sometimes we proclaim inside to remind ourselves who's really in control.

Conclusion:

There is much we can learn from Daniel. No matter the season or the circumstance lets make sure we are...

Praying
Praising
Proclaim

Let's take a moment and ask God what area of these is lacking in our lives. What area is God speaking to you about today?