



Daniel: A Faithful Life in a Hostile Culture
Daniel 2:17-23
From Sermon 8.30.26

Read *Daniel 2:17-23*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: After having been placed in a seemingly impossible trial (knowing and interpreting the king's dream), Daniel now responds. It's a do-or-die moment. If God doesn't show up, Daniel and his friends are dead. But the prophet's reaction is counter-cultural. He does not panic. He does not run from God but rather runs to Him. This fully fits into Daniel's preemptive protection plan = knowing God by knowing the nature of God and His Word.

1. How did Daniel respond to this latest test/trial? He went to God first. He humbled himself and trusted that God fully knew the situation and would bring about an outcome that brought Him glory. Daniel praised God in the storm.

2. What are some of our fleshly, old nature responses to problems and crises? Can you think of a biblical example of the same? Various Answers. But include...

...Worldly Answers & Solutions. Think of David when he sinned with Bathsheba.

...Focus on the nature of the Problem vs the nature of God. Moses. The Apostles in the boat.

...Withdraw. Jonah.

...Play the Blame Game. Adam and Eve.

3. Daniel chose to cling to The Nature of God. Read each verse. Note the trait of God we can rely on.

- *Jeremiah 32:17*—Omnipotent/All Powerful
- *Psalms 139:7-10*—Omnipresent. Everywhere at once. In both time and space.
- *Isaiah 46:9-10*—Omniscient. Knows the full truth about all things. Ordained the outcome.
- *Psalms 115:3*—Sovereign. God does according to His will and purpose and holy nature.
- *Psalms 103:8*—He is Mercy (love, compassion)
- *Hebrews 13:8*—He is Unchanging

4. Is God obligated to rescue us from all trials and temptations? Not at all. We keep seeing Daniel and his friends saved from the consequences in this book. But many others in the Bible and Christian history lost everything including their lives for remaining faithful.

4a. Is God obligated to give us an explanation for what we go through? No

What would the problem still even if He did? Our sinful, fallen, finite minds couldn't understand.

See *Isaiah 55:8-9*

5. How difficult is it to praise God when you are going through the tough time/season? Various Answers.

6. What do you suppose would have been the reaction of Daniel and his friends if God had not revealed the details and meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream? On what are you basing your answer?

Because we already know the mega trials that are coming in this book, we know Daniel and his friends will still trust in God and accept their fate.