



PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART

- Last week's class was called, "Purpose in Your Heart"
- We looked at Daniel's attitude in Chapter 1, and learned:

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- 1) Daniel didn't quit when things didn't go his way!

- Daniel didn't live his life looking back at how things could have been, he started looking ahead at what God was going to do in this situation.

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- 2) Daniel Purposed to Do God's Will

- Doing God's will is not always easy, and sometimes it's quite risky because of what the earthly consequences may be.
- Learn to do God's Will when it's easy, because it will help you when it's hard.

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- 3) Daniel was Faithful to God, and had Faith that God would be Faithful to him

- Rather than rationalizing in his own mind that he had no choice but to eat as ordered, he went ahead and **DID ALL HE COULD IN THE SITUATION, THEN LOOKED TO GOD TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE.**

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- 4) Daniel didn't let his bad circumstances stop him from thinking that God could use him
- Come to **BELIEVE** that God can use anybody, at any time, for any purpose, under any circumstances... **AND THAT MEANS YOU!**

- Today we will look at what happens to Daniel in Chapter 2

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- The character of Daniel that we want to focus on today, is the fact that he “Blessed the God of Heaven”
- We’re familiar with what happens to Nebuchadnezzar
- He dreams a dream in the middle of the night
- Daniel 2:1

- 1) And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

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- Understand that what this means is that Nebuchadnezzar was **TERRIFIED!**
- When a small child sees a terrifying event, they do what is called Psychological Blocking, where they block it so thoroughly that they don’t even remember that it happened
- This happens rarely to Adults also, but only if the event is so traumatic that they can’t deal with it any other way...
- Not only is he unable to sleep over this, but “the thing has gone from him” – Verse 5
- What do we know about Nebuchadnezzar so far?
- Genius – Generous – Patient

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- Yet this dream had him so shook up that he calls in EVERYONE:
- Daniel 2:2

- 2) Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

- Who isn’t mentioned here?
- The Jews!
- Why didn’t they call the wise, young Jews that they had taken from Jerusalem?

- Those who were “skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science”
- Why do you think that they weren’t included?

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- And all of the King’s men can’t help him...
- Explain Chaldean Dream Books
- Look at how reasonable their response seems:

• Daniel 2:3-12

- 3) And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.
- 4) Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.
- 5) The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.
- 6) But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.
- 7) They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.
- 8) The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.
- 9) But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, *there is but* one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.
- 10) The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king’s matter: therefore *there is* no king, lord, nor ruler, *that* asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.
- 11) And *it is* a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, **except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.**

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- And he gets so worked up about it that...
- Daniel 2:12

12) For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon.

- So, they round up all the wise men to kill them

- Daniel 2:13

13) And the decree went forth that the wise *men* should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

- Daniel and his fellows weren't included in the first attempt, probably because they were so new to the job
- But, it is not that unreasonable a request that Daniel brings
- And let's look about HOW he goes about it...

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- 1) Daniel was calm and composed even though his life was on the line
- He didn't panic because he had confidence in God
- He knew his destiny rested in God's will
- People who respond to a crisis like that are prepared before the crisis ever comes
- Listen to verse 14 from the NLT Translation:
- Daniel 2:14 NLT

14) When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion.

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- 2) The phrase translated "counsel and wisdom" is better translated "wisdom and discretion"
- Daniel spoke appropriately and reasonably
- When the king's guard approached Daniel to inform him of the decree and seize him, he responded appropriately with great counsel, wisdom, and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the guard.
- Since the Aramaic root translated "captain" comes from a verb that means "to slay," Arioch may have served as the king's executioner
- Although other soldiers in the guard were collecting the various wise men, the captain himself went to see Daniel

- That enabled Daniel to have direct access to the king through the king's own executioner.

* Daniel 2:15

- 15) He answered and said to Arioch, the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

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- 3) Daniel had the ability in the midst of panic to put people at ease
- Daniel was fearless because his life was in God's hands
- A person without composure will never be effective comforting or ministering to the needs of others, because life is often one crisis after another

• Daniel 2:16

- 16) Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation.

- Instead of executing Daniel, Arioch apparently arranged an audience with the king for him
- Though only a youthful apprentice, Daniel boldly asked the king to give him time to show the king the whole interpretation

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- Daniel was not at all presumptuous in his request to the king
- 4) He had faith that God would give him the ability to reveal dreams and visions
- He had never done it before, but THAT is what living by faith is... Doing things that you have never done before
- The king did not grant the wise men the time they so desperately needed, yet he did to Daniel. Why?
- Perhaps he remembered when he first examined Daniel and his friends and found them ten times wiser than the wisest men in Babylon (1:20).
- But also Daniel was courageous. Its hard not to admire a man with strong, confident faith in God, and the willingness to face a frustrated, raging king.
- If you don't have composure and courage, you'll never make it through a crisis

- But you can be composed and courageous any time when you know you stand on the authority of God's revealed Word

- Daniel 2:17-18

17) Then Daniel went to his house, and he made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, his companions; that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

- Daniel went back to tell his friends that he had been granted time to determine the dream and its interpretation

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- At once they began to "desire mercies of the God of heaven"
- 5) That's a long way of saying that they began to PRAY
- Daniel's confidence was in God, so he immediately sought communion with the Lord
- God's servants are people of prayer
- Daniel could have depended on his righteous character and his gift of interpreting dreams and visions, but he depended on God (1:17)
- He didn't expect to receive what he needed without prayer
- He depended on God's mercy
- He didn't look to men's wisdom or in dream books; he got on his knees
- A Believer in crisis doesn't take his troubles to other people; he takes them to God
- He may ask other people to pray with him as Daniel did, but he knows God is the source

- Daniel 2:19

19) Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.

- In the middle of that night of prayer, God revealed His secret to Daniel
- Look at Daniel's response

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- 6) He blessed God

- Daniel 2:20-22

20) Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are his, and he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who know understanding; he revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

- Daniel blessed God in what amounts to a hymn of praise
- He blessed God for His attributes such as His wisdom, power, and omniscience

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- 7) He thanked God

• Daniel 2:23

23) I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee; for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

- Daniel thanked God for His blessings and especially for answering his and his friend's urgent prayer request

• Daniel 2:24

24) Therefore, Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and said thus unto him, Destroy not the wise men of Babylon. Bring me in before the king, and I will reveal unto the king the interpretation.

- Daniel went to Arioch to make sure the executioner didn't carry out his assignment
- Here we see Daniel, a Hebrew captive, countermanding an order given by the king!

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- 8) I think Daniel was motivated by compassion for the wise men
- He knew they were lost in their idolatry and he didn't want them to die

• Daniel 2:25

25) Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

- With much excitement, Arioch brought Daniel before the king, taking more credit than he deserved

- Actually Daniel had approached him, but when you're a servant of the king there's a tendency to do all you can to impress your master

- Daniel 2:26

26) The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation of it?"

- The king put Daniel on the spot
- If Daniel couldn't fulfill his claim, there would be an even greater reason for his execution since he had postponed the king's original command
- So he pressed Daniel for a confirmation of his ability.

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9) In spite of all his gifts, brilliance, and spiritual maturity, Daniel remained humble

- Furthermore, he had received extensive training, was ten times wiser than the other wise men, and could interpret visions and dreams
- If anyone had anything to be proud of, Daniel did
- But he remained humble

- Daniel 2:27

27) Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, reveal unto the king.

- Daniel wanted to affirm the futility of astrology and the like
- He set the true God against useless dream manuals

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- Daniel 2:28-29

28) But there is a God in heaven who revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king, Nebuchadnezzar, what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed are these: As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter; and he who revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

- 10) Daniel ascribes all the Glory and power to God!

- Daniel 2:30

30) But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

- Daniel wouldn't take any credit for knowing the king's dream

- God is the revealer of secrets

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- 11) Daniel knew he had been used by God for His purposes