

Sermon Notes – Daniel 2 – A Spiritual Crisis

Do you ever feel stuck? Like your situation will never change?

You shouldn't. Most situations are not in your control, but they are in God's control. In my notes, I wrote, "God is clearly in control." You know what? It isn't clear. It was clear to Daniel.

King Nebuchadnezzar has conquered almost all of the known world. He is powerful and rich. But he can't sleep.

Read Daniel 2:1 – The king has a spiritual crisis

You could read this as "His spirit was struck," and this striking is like a hammer on an anvil or a bell. This isn't just a bad dream or a sleepless night. Nebuchadnezzar is being visited by something more powerful than him. And to be honest, he didn't know there was anything more powerful than him. He is having a spiritual crisis.

Read Daniel 2:1-4 – The king is seeking spiritual guidance

So here's the deal. Nebuchadnezzar has these bad dreams and calls his wise counselors in to interpret the dream. But... he refuses to tell them the dream.

Read Daniel 2:5-9 – He refuses to tell them the dream

The king tells them: "If you do not tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you."

This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. -- Daniel 2:5

"Cut into pieces." And the word shouldn't be translated "cut." It should be translated "ripped."

"Your houses will be turned into piles of rubble." History shows that the king actually turned some men's houses into restrooms.

Read Daniel 2:10-11 – "the gods do not live among men."

They reveal their understanding of the world. "Gods do not live among men." This is the whole point of Jesus Christ. He was God and he came and lived among us. And God's Spirit speaks to us. We just are often not in a position to hear him. We are unwilling to live a life of sacrifice that would allow us to hear.

God isn't all about rules to have rules. God wants you to hear Him and you can live a way that limits how well you hear.

Read Daniel 2:12-16 – Daniel asks for a chance to help

Daniel was serving in a nation that denied his God, conquered other nations, and believed things absolutely contrary to what Daniel believed, and yet, He was a blessing to them.

Because Daniel has been a blessing to those he served, he is able to come to the king during his spiritual crisis.

You may hate your boss. You may hate your neighbor. You may hate your classmate or your teacher. But if you are a blessing to them, when they have a spiritual crisis, they will give you the opportunity to speak to them about it.

And the world will change because of it.

Read Daniel 2:17-19 – Daniel pleads to hear from God

Daniel and his friends plead for mercy from God, they plead for their lives, that God will reveal to them the dream. And God does.

Daniel prays that God would reveal to him the nature of the King's spiritual crisis. Do you ever do that? Do you know people who are having a spiritual crisis? What if you prayed and asked God to reveal the nature of that crisis to you so that you could be a help to them? What if you asked those closest to you to join in prayer?

God does live among us. And He can give us the ability to help people through their spiritual crisis, if we are willing to be a blessing to them until the crisis hits.