

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
“Praying Man Trusts”
Drue Warner
11-30-25

PRAYING TOGETHER AT HILLSIDE

DANIEL 2:1-24 Facing an impossible situation

1 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. 2 So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, 3 he said to them, *“I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.”*

4 Then the astrologers answered the king, *“May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”*

5 The king replied to the astrologers, *“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. 6 But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me.”* 7 Once more they replied, *“Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”*

8 Then the king answered, *“I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: 9 If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me.”*

10 The astrologers answered the king, *“There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. 11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.”*

12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, **Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact.** 15 He asked the king's officer, *"Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?"* Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. **16 At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time,** so that he might interpret the dream for him.

17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery,** so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.**

Then Daniel praised the God of heaven 20 and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. 21 He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. 22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. 23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

24 Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, **"Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."**

TAKE AWAYS

1. Daniel **trusted** that God would direct His path.
2. Daniel **believed** in the power of prayer
3. Daniel **submitted** himself to God in prayer.
 - **Impossible situation 2** - *"God is able to deliver us and he will deliver us... but even if he does not."* – Daniel 3:17-18 (Shadrach, Mechach, and Abednego)

INTERESTING: *Daniel was so confident in God's answer that he wrote a Psalm of praise to God even before his meeting with the King.*

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PRAYER?

- *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you."* - 1 Peter 5:7

- “The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help.” - Psalm 34:17
- “He hears their cries for help and rescues them.” - Psalm 145:19
- “I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking to me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers.” - Isaiah 65:24
- “We can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for.” - 1 John 5:14-15
- Don’t worry about anything: instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7
- “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” - Hebrews 4:16
- “For Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our advocate.” - Hebrews 9:24a

In situations that are beyond our control and in seemingly impossible situations, it’s easy to be fearful, but (as Elisabeth Elliot once said)... ***“There’s no other remedy in life for fear, than trust.”*** And the expression of trust is prayer.

“Talking to God is inextricably linked with trusting in him. Fellowship with God was the number one priority in Daniel’s life. The key to the whole story is Daniel’s complete trust in God. This made him fearless.” – Bible in One Year, Day 334 (11-30-25)

REFLECTION

- It is a privilege and a blessing that God has brought us to this place of utter and total dependence with a need in front of us that is impossible for us in our own strength to meet.
 - This is our Red Sea. This is our Jordan River. Lord, how will we possibly get across? Lord, where is the path of deliverance? ***“Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters— a pathway no one knew was there!”*** - Psalm 77:19

- In this moment, God has opened up a wide opportunity for this little brewery church to share with multitudes of people, and everyone in our network of relationships what he is doing, what he has done, and what he will do.
 - This is a golden opportunity for us to reach out to people that we have been praying for FOR YEARS, and connect them with the love of Christ.
- This is a privileged opportunity that God has given our church to watch God work, to see Him provide, and to develop faith together.
 - I believe that God will use this opportunity, like nothing else we've experienced, to forge us together and unite us at the heart and soul level in faith and trust in God (no matter how He answers our prayers).

IS ANYTHING IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD?

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. **And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"** They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."
 - Matthew 9:28

The angel to Mary... **"For with God nothing is impossible."** - Luke 1:37

"We have a God who delights in impossibilities and who asks, "Is anything too hard for me?" - Andrew Murray

"Our prayers are God's opportunities." - Mrs. Charles C. Cowman

FINAL THOUGHT: Praying man trusts... and trusting man prays.

GNC PRAYER REQUESTS: 1) Wisdom 2) Blessing 3) Provision

ACTS

- **Adoration** for who God is
- **Confession** of sin, repentance, and assurance of pardon
 - Assurance of Pardon - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
 - 1 John 1:9
- **Thanksgiving** for what God has done
- **Supplication** - ask, request, beg earnestly and humbly