

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

June 2, 2021

Daniel 5:1-31

Integrity

As bible characters go there are few whose sin is never mentioned. While we know they were sinners (Romans 3:23), God saw fit to look beyond it and focus instead on lives lived in integrity. Joshua, Joseph, Deborah, Ruth. When the book closes on our lives, will our sin be mentioned or will we shine for Christ? Philippians 1:21, Matthew 25:20-21. Today's text brings us to Daniel. A saint of the Lord who consistently managed to make godly choices. That's what life is after all. Choice. Every moment, every day we are faced with the prospect of choosing to either honor the Savior or embarrass Him. Daniel honored Him in all that is recorded. When Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and took captives, Daniel and his companions were chosen to serve the King because of their skill, wisdom and knowledge. Daniel 1:3-4. Daniel (meaning; God is my judge) rejected the King's fine food to honor God's laws. V8. He interpreted the King's dream and gave God the glory. 2:20-23. His company of friends refused to worship the King's image. 3:16-18. Daniel interprets another dream and sees it fulfilled. 4:19-33. In today's text he refuses the King's gifts and stands up against him to "speak truth to power". 5:16-24. Of course this elevates Daniel and gives him enemies. As he endures their attack he boldly worships God in direct disobedience to their divisive new law. 6:10. God never promises to protect us all from fire or lions but when it fits His will he raises up faithful people to perform His work and He will see them through. Hebrews 13:20-21, Ephesians 2:10. The rest of the writings of Daniel reveal that a servant so faithful will be brought into the inner circle of God's angels where he can be trusted to put forth the Word of God. Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 2:13. He closes his book in 12:8-13 knowing of hard days to come even as many are saved, many are punished and that he himself will rise to meet His Messiah on the last day.

Pastor's message focused on the parallels of Daniel's time and ours. As our nation develops decrees and demands that attack our faith and traditions we see from his example that we must stand in opposition to all that sets itself up to usurp God's authority. Do we honor the Lord with our skill, wisdom and knowledge or do we find reason for pride in ourselves? Colossians 3:17. Do we care for our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. Do we seek to share with others for their benefit and God's glory or do we serve ourselves? Luke 12:33-34, Proverbs 19:17. Do we choose friends who are faithful to God? Proverbs 17:17. Do we have the courage to "speak truth to power" or are we intimidated by it? Acts 4:17-20. How do we endure the attack of enemies? We must faithfully turn to God in prayer before doing anything else. Psalm 91. Will we disobey a law of man to adhere to the Law of God? Will we back away from worship when evil threatens to prevent us? The laws of our nation are being changed and will soon put us in jeopardy of having to break them to stay faithful to God. Will we serve God in Christ even if He chooses not to rescue us from disaster? He may involve us in His work if we show ourselves faithful. All this joyfully reminds us that we will stand in His presence on that final day. 2 Corinthians 5:8-10. God's men and women of integrity have inspired us to follow their example. As the world gets darker, we must shine brighter and be ever so careful to live our faith boldly and publicly.