

Thought for a Wednesday

June 2, 2010

So, if you were brave enough to be in church this weekend (it's a joke people) you and I were challenged to have 7 "Daniel Days" this week – And I wonder, how's it going? You and I were dared to deepen our intensity and pursuit of God in prayer, by committing three times each day to stop what we're doing spend 15 minutes with God. It was a dare to invite the power of God more intimately into our lives from the example of Daniel...

- ◆ **Morning** – Daniel would come, not to casually engage God, but he would kneel, window open to Jerusalem to offer his praises to God just so that he was clear, "Who am I serving? Who is really in control of all this?" He would neglect the pressures [of life] in order to **NOT** neglect the power found in prayer: He would offer up his praise, surrender his pressures and seek God's peace for the day...
- ◆ **Afternoon** – He would come back to the same spot, shut down the day for a moment and repeat in that moment what he had focused on in the morning...
- ◆ **Evening/Night** – Again, back at the window, reminding himself who he really belonged to and who he really could trust in a world filled with fear and uncertainty...

I must confess that the hardest part of this discipline was the evening/night, because once I'm home with my family, my time, my mind, my energies are kind of concentrated on them – So it's been quite a struggle to say the least. But, I am finding it a much rewarding endeavor to undergo, and I hope you are finding it worthwhile too...

On Tuesday morning for my "praise" time, I meditated on Psalm 19...

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.

The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19, NLT)

As I praised God, David reminded me to do this...

1. DISCOVER the wonder of God's creation... (v. 1)
2. ENCOUNTER the power of God's Word... (vs. 7-9)

3. FOLLOW the path of God's Word... (vs. 10-11)
4. FIND forgiveness from life's faults... – Talk about surrendering the pressures/anxieties of life! (vs. 12-13)
5. KNOW the Redeemer who is the foundation for life... (v. 14)

Just a thot... wish I could say I was an expert on this... but I'm actually still learning HOW!!
Would love to here some of your insights and discerning of these Daniel Days – Drop me a line...

Be strong... Be courageous... Be fearless...

Christ is All,
Pastor Mark