



Nov 17/18, 2018

Sermon Title: The God Who Speaks

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Scripture: Daniel 2:15-16 – (Daniel) said to Arioch, the king’s commander, “For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?” Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.

1. When we’re faithful to God our ability to reject compromise increases, but the pressure to compromise usually intensifies!
2. Our faithfulness - and God’s resulting favor - make us greater threats to evil and thus, bigger targets of evil.
3. The story of Daniel symbolizes the ongoing clash between the pride of contemporary secularism and atheism, and God’s power.
4. Those who refuse to trust God choose to trust things inferior to God - like human experts!
5. When it comes to witnessing we’re never first on the scene! If God nudges us to speak He’s already been speaking undercover.
6. If we want people to listen to what we believe we must be willing to listen to what they’re thinking.
7. Faith trusts God for what is needed before what is needed arrives. (Hebrews 11:1)
8. Those who kneel before God aren’t afraid to stand before kings. If you’re intimate with God you won’t be intimidated by men.
9. The universe is not a closed system of unthinking, impersonal “cause and effect” that leaves us accountable to no one but ourselves. It’s the creation of an all-wise, personal God who knows and reveals the future - because He’s in control of it. And that leaves us accountable to Him!

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UP

1. How does your family typically celebrate Thanksgiving and what are your plans this year?
2. Do you prefer to travel and visit on holidays or just stay home? Why?

DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how good of a “listener” are you? Explain.
3. Are you intimidated by our current culture of secularism and atheism? Does it produce fear that hinders your desire to witness? Why or why not?
4. How would you describe your personal relationship with Jesus? Is “intimacy” with Him something you consciously pursue? Why or why not?
5. What are some ways you hear from God? What are some methods He used to communicate with people in scripture?

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any links or insights from today’s message.

- Hebrews 11:1; 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Luke 12:11-12, 21:12-15
- James 4:8; Revelation 3:20; Psalm 14:2, 105:4; Luke 10:37
- Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11
- John 10:27, 16:13; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105

PRACTICE

- What do your “spiritual rhythms” and disciplines for growing your relationship with God currently look like (daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly)? Are you carving out quiet places to nurture your relationship with God and hear from Him? Do you need to make any adjustments or changes?
- Spend some consistent alone time with God listening for His voice. What do you hear Him saying?