

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 2/26/23

Sermon: The End to Self

Text: Daniel 4

Speaker: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Phil Demeter

King Nebuchadnezzar starts off by explaining how he has a vision and that he sought counsel from all the wise men and scholars of this day...except Daniel. When we know that we are in sin the last thing we want to do is bring in someone who will point out the truth to us, and this is exactly what happens when Daniel is asked to explain the dream or vision that the King had dreamt. This letter that King Nebuchadnezzar writes is his open letter, if you will, of his repentance, acknowledging who God is and how little he himself, even as a king, is. We learn in this passage that our biggest rival to God Himself is actually ourselves. We desire to do life our way, and to reign over these things in our life. 1 Peter 5:5-6 says that He opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Without acknowledging that Jesus is King of us we will struggle to repent. We learned 3 things about repentance:

1. Repentance Is More Than Confession And More Than Contrition.
See Daniel 2 where Nebuchadnezzar feels bad and sees God for who He is.
2. Repentance Involves Genuine Humility.
King Nebuchadnezzar had reached "Lebron" status and was having a hard time seeing past himself. Daniel coming in to interpret the vision he KNEW it would be the truth. 1 John 1:5-7
3. Repentance Brings About True Transformation Of The Heart.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to truly repent of our sins? What does 2 Corinthians 7:10 say about true repentance? Ted said during the sermon that "Repentance is turning away without turning back" and "Wanting to be better is not the same as wanting Jesus"

2. What could happen if we do not turn away from the sin? Ted mentions that not turning away could cause us to become numb towards God and the Holy Spirit, and that when we fail to repent of the sin it potentially is going to hurt even more when the Holy Spirit convicts or shines light on it. If you are comfortable, do you have a time that you would share with us that you remember God taking a full ax to a sin you were in and if there were consequences to it?
3. Why should we want to repent if everything is going well around you? What is it about following Jesus that is hard? King Nebuchadnezzar says that his repentance was the WORST thing in his life yet it was the BEST day of his life. Can you say this in your life, that our repentance was the worst thing that happened yet the best thing that happened?

Reflection:

If someone saw you today can people see that you are Christ-like, bearing fruits of the spirit? King Nebuchadnezzar's animal-like description essentially shows that his own outward appearance reflects what was in his heart. God's will for our lives is Romans 8:29 and Romans 12:2. What can we do as a community group to help remind each other of this?