

Behind the Scenes

Sermon Questions | 05.22.16

Opener

Opener: Describe a time when you were desperate for God to show up and do something in your life. How did he respond?

Background of Daniel 9: Daniel, after reading Jeremiah, realizes that the captivity will only last 70 years. He is an old man now and has been there for 66 years, so he earnestly starts to pray that God would act now. It is a prayer of sincere remorse, but it is an old covenant prayer and Daniel knows that something else is necessary for the forgiveness of sins. Gabriel explains to Daniel that God is going to “do something”, and it will fix the sin problem once and for all.

Read

Daniel 9: 1-27

Hebrews 10: 1-39

Engaging with God in a Group

How do prophetic passages like Daniel 9 inspire you in your faith?

In Daniel 9:1-19, Daniel seeks the Lord in prayer. Pete described this prayer as an Old Covenant Prayer with the age old problem of God’s covenant people not able to keep the commandments and yet God continued to grant mercy and forgiveness even in times of desolation and exile. Can you relate to “asking for crumbs” when you approach God in prayer as Daniel did or as the Prodigal Son did in the New Testament? Why or why not?

In Daniel 9:26-27, there is a reference to the Messiah who is cut off and has nothing. What is this scene referring to? Re-read Hebrews 10:11-14

Re-read Daniel 9:24. Knowing that in Christ, there is atonement for sin by the anointed one and everlasting righteousness has been brought in, how will this change the way you pray in the future?

Engaging with God Alone

Spend some time this week reading Hebrews 10 and compare it to Daniel 9. Which do you identify with more, the image of asking for crumbs from God in prayer and the cycle of “I’m so sorry” or the New Covenant truth that as a believer in Christ you can now rest in the grace that Christ has provided for you?

Pete mentioned that sin is not who you are in Christ, it is simply temporary insanity. When you blow it this week, how will you respond differently?

Closing thoughts and prayer

Lord, your grace and mercy are boundless and limitless; your righteousness is everlasting. Allow us to know what it is to rest in your grace, the grace provided by Christ, so that we can know and love you more.