

GROWTH GROUPS

June 24, 2012

Daniel 4:16-18; Acts 12:1-11 – God’s Plan Pt. II Our God is Able

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever wondered how you were going to have the resources (either inner spiritual resources or financial resources) to accomplish a task in your life? Have you ever wondered how can the Church take on such a big task or endeavor? Imagine for a moment what it must have been like for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Babylon challenged in their faith over whether to bow before the idol as they were being forced and continue to live (no one would know that they weren’t really worshipping this idol) or refuse to bow and compromise and die. Wow, few of us will ever be challenged in such a bold and decisive way in our lives. What do you think they were thinking as the challenge went forth and the instruments began to play?

Understanding: This week we consider the lives of three Hebrew young men (Daniel passage) as well as an incident from Peter’s life (Acts passage) where God showed up in a big way to reveal Himself and help His children discover His plan for their lives. As we study the scriptures and consider the nature of God as we understand Him revealing Himself throughout history; we experience a God who wants us to know Him better. In both of these scripture instances the believers understood that God could do some things to intervene on their behalf in a tight spot. They knew and proclaimed that God was able to do great things and answer BIG prayers. They did not guarantee or proclaim boldly that He would do this or that. They merely stated that He was able and that they would believe and trust no matter how He answered. How do we develop a faith like that that takes a stand for God in difficult circumstances of persecution and believes that regardless of how the answer comes out that God has a plan for the circumstance with a hope and a future?

Questions

1. Do you think that it is easier or harder to follow God and His way during times of great persecution? Why? What gave the three Hebrew young men the confidence to take an unpopular stand for god in that circumstance?
2. What might have happened if they had just pretended to bow and worship the idol? Wouldn’t God understand and cut them a break so they could go on living and serving Him? Does following God’s way require taking that kind of stand?
3. The three Hebrew children and Daniel (with the lion’s den) as well as Peter in the Book of Acts believed and lived in God’s way understanding God as Big enough for any circumstance that they would face. How does how we see God’s ability to perform miracles impact our prayers and the way that we follow God’s plan for our life? What does it mean to go all in for God?

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