

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for unity in the church...&... thank God for unity in His church - One in The SON

Daniel 2:13-30 - Shock & Awe-some Response

Intro - Daniel had trials early and often in his life. A young noble carried away captive as an adolescent and castrated. Under intense pressure to conform to the culture of his imposed new environment. *Freshman year* of forced re-education - trial over how to glorify God by their food. *Sophomore year* - the king had a dream & Daniel's division of educated elites were charged with the task of not only interpreting the dream but revealing the dream. Impossible task for the experienced magicians, or the interns (like Daniel). This passage points us to God...who can do the impossible - Luke 1:37. It also shows us how to handle impossible situations. How do you respond to a tyrannical government? What do you do when your life is unjustly threatened? Tomorrow is MLKJ Day - advocated for peaceful protest. Today, on this Lord's Day, we see Daniel demonstrate how to righteously respond to an unrighteous/unjust order. *Shock & Awesome*

SHOCK

- It appears that Daniel was unaware of the Neb's dream or his deadly decree
 - Interns & fraternity brats were not invited to the king's confab with the *Conjurers*
 - Daniel was in the dark about being in danger
- The jackbooted thugs show up unannounced at fraternity house to kill Daniel - 2:13
 - Imagine the scene....
- The king's commander informed Daniel about the situation - 2:15
 - Daniel had already impressed some of the officials - (Chief of eunuchs and a commander)
 - Arioch was the captain of the bodyguards - 2:14 - lit. - "*chief of the slaughterers*"
 - If Daniel had impressed and befriended the chief executioner that would have been very beneficial when that guy was sent to execute him Luke 16:9
- Arioch was not rash in carrying out his duty against Daniel
 - The other wise men/magicians were already being killed
 - Arioch listened to the shocked and subdued Daniel ... and treaded softly
 - Good lessons here for *agents of the state* and recipients of the state's wrath

AWESOME RESPONSE

Daniel's response to this unjust & deadly situation was awesome. Shock & Awesome

1. Wisely Daniel didn't overreact....he reacted wisely
 - a. Stressful situations can often elicit foolish & immediate overreaction & responses
 - b. Daniel 2:14 (NIV - *wisdom & tact* NKJV - *counsel & wisdom*) Proverbs 16:14
2. Reasonably
 - a. Daniel 2:15 "*what reason is the decree...so urgent?*" (Neb was a rash tyrannical ruler - ch. 3)
3. Respectfully
 - a. All authority is established by God - Rom. 13:1 (even tyrannical dictators)
 - b. Each office is to have its proper respect & honor - Rom. 13:7 1 Peter 2:17
4. Courageously 2:16

- a. Daniels superiors had already been chided for asking for more time - 2:8
- b. MLKJ (letter from Birmingham jail) *“one who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly and with a willingness to accept the penalty”*
- 5. Believingly Daniel exhibited and responded with great faith
 - a. He didn't just ask for time he told the king that he would reveal the dream
 - b. 2:16 (their experience with the miraculous food increased their faith in God's care & provision)
- 6. Prayerfully 2:17-18
 - a. Daniel called a prayer party/meeting. The more the merrier when it comes to prayer
 - b. Esther 4:16
 - c. They petitioned for compassion - 2:18 James 1:17 Ex. 34:6
- 7. Thankfully
 - a. Grateful for answered prayer - 2:19
- 8. Worshipfully - He recounts some of God's perfections and praises accordingly
 - a. God is the source of all wisdom and power
 - i. 2:20 Rom. 16:27 Psalm 147:5
 - b. God changes events - weather, seasons, politician, economies....
 - i. 2:21a God ordains history and all events Rom. 11:36
 - c. God shares some of His attributes
 - i. 2:21b the wisdom and genius of men is but a reflection of the gift of God to them. The captains of industry and information demonstrate Gods image stamped in them.
When wisdom is displayed by anyone it should elicit praise to God from everyone!
 - ii. All of creation screams forth about The Creator (mushrooms / fungi)
 - d. God is omniscient 2:22a
 - i. We may be in the dark but God is never in the dark - nothing is hidden
 - e. God is light 2:22b
 - i. 1 John 1:5 1 Tim. 6:16 James 1:17 John 8:12 (lightbulb moment? Praise The Light)
 - f. God answers prayer
 - i. 2:23 James 5:16 1 John 5:14 John 15:7 Ps. 86:7
- 9. Neighborly 2:24
 - a. Daniel showed concern for the lives of the other wise men -
 - i. Daniel wanted to preserve and enhance the life of others. Lev. 19:18b
- 10. Humbly
 - a. Arioch takes credit for finding Daniel.... 2:25
 - b. but Daniel doesn't take credit for finding the answer 2:30
 - c. The Kingdom way is a humble way - Matt. 23:12
 - i. 1 Cor. 4:7 *“....what do you have that you did not receive....?”*
- 11. Giving Glory
 - a. Daniel gave all the glory to God - 2:27-28 Man can't but God can
 - b. Psalm 115:1 1 Cor. 1:31

If we are ever shocked by unexpected and unjust events/decrees...pray that we would have a similar awesome response to government injustices *Shock and Awesome*

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