What Do I Do When the Future Looks Dark?

Curtis Warren // March 27, 2022 Daniel 10-11

Big Idea: Exiles get through dark times by remembering that Jesus already won.

Sermon questions

Meet Daniel—a man who stayed radically faithful to God and thrived in his faith while living right in the middle of one of the most godless kingdoms of all time. He has a lot to teach us about what it looks like to be an exile—a citizen of God's kingdom who lives in the tension of being in the world but not of it. We are continuing our series in Daniel, and our passage this Sunday is **Daniel 10-11**. The Big Idea is, *Exiles get through times of darkness by remembering that Jesus already won*.

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can ${\bf grow}$ as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can ${\bf go}$ accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Read **Daniel 10** as a group. What things stick out to you about Daniel's actions, reactions, and character?

We see that Daniel is referred to in Chapter 10 by his exilic name again, Belteshazzar. The significance is that it points to his still being in exile. God has not delivered him from exile but has seen him through it. What are some ways you see God walking through the struggles of life with you?

3.	We see three times in this passage that Daniel is "touched" by the messenger from God in order to give him strength. In what area of life do you need strength? (Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10) What hope can be found in our own weakness?
4.	How can we grow in times where the future looks bleak? It doesn't take much time on social media or watching the news to feel the circumstances are grim. Where does an exile find hope and the determination to continue forward in a growth mindset?
5.	If our hope is not found in the outcomes of earthly struggles, but in the God who holds all things and who has written the end of the story, how should this influence us to go and reach others with the gospel?