

I. Introduction

- A. Prayer and God's movement
 - 1. If we really want to see God move in our lives, in our family, in our church, in our city, in our world, then we must be a people of prayer.
 - 2. If you and I are serious about Jesus, then we will be serious about prayer.
- B. Time machine - Jon Bon Jovi
 - 1. 1986, I was 14
 - a. Songs
 - 1) "Greatest Love of All" Whitney Houston
 - 2) "Sledgehammer" Peter Gabriel
 - 3) "Danger Zone" Kenny Loggins
 - b. Movies
 - 1) Top Gun
 - 2) Three Amigos
 - 3) Highlander
 - c. Book - there can be only one, This Present Darkness
 - 2. Out of that, Daniel 10
 - a. Daniel, angels, demons, supernatural battles, etc.
 - b. But, what is Daniel 10 really all about?

**Today, I want to look at the prophet Daniel and how he models the position of prayer that we talked about last week from Jesus' teaching.

II. Daniel: the position of prayer

- A. Read Daniel 10 in the Message translation
 - 1. Daniel 10 illustrates what Jesus talked about in Matthew 6:5-8
 - 2. The power in Daniel's prayer was not the words he used but the position of humility that he took when he prayed.
- B. Process of emptying ... (verse 3)
 - 1. Poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, hunger and thirst
 - 2. Illustration of the Beatitudes as applied to prayer

**Don't waste your God-given emotion but direct it to God Himself. God has designed our emotions to result in prayer - for help or in gratitude - but always toward prayer!

- C. God's messenger (verses 5-7)
- D. Humility in prayer (verses 10-12)
 - 1. There is great love and a high esteem for Daniel (verses 10-11)
 - 2. Q: how can you determine if you are humble?
"Well, if you think you're humble, then you're definitely not."
-Completely unbiblical answer that Christians seem to have accepted as true. God's desire for us is to have an accurate estimate of ourselves - who we are and where we are in the process of transformation

**Basically, this statement keeps us from the work of evaluating our behavior and motives! It is exactly the answer Satan wants us to stick with!

True humility ...

- Asks for help
- Is quick to forgive
- Is patient with others
- Is a peacemaker
- Knows when to be quiet
- Sees own weakness and can admit it
- Happily serves others
- Is grateful and thankful
- Is quick to repent
- Treats others with respect

False humility

- Humbly brags
- Frequently uses "humbled"
- Doesn't accept compliments

**How do you determine if you are growing in humility? You evaluate your behavior with your motivation. Saying "I'm humble" or "I'm not humble" means nothing.

**I, Matt Whiteford, am growing significantly in humility. Saying that statement about myself does not negate my humility! What it does do is give others the opportunity to watch my life and see if it's true.

2. The key to powerful prayer (verse 12)

- a. "I have been sent to you" and "I have come because of your words."
 - 1) God sent this angel.
 - 2) He appeared because of Daniels words? Like the magic chant?
- b. "... from the first day that you humbled yourself before your God, your words [prayers] have been heard, and I have come because of your words [prayers]."

**God hears and responds immediately to the prayers of His children that are prayed from a position of humility. God heard and responded to the prayers of Daniel because of His humility. Period.

E. Daniel's humility in...

1. Weakness (verses 16-17)
 - a. Admission of anguish, weakness and feeling drained
 - b. A humble openness about his unworthiness
2. Strength (verses 18-19)
 - a. Angel strengthened Daniel and exalted him.
 - b. In humility, Daniel receives courage and strength, lets weakness go and doesn't falsely reject the exaltation.

**The proud are brought low; the humble are exalted.

III. Observation on prayer

- A. God immediately answered Daniel's prayer but the process of humility - fasting, mourning and prayer - was allowed to be completed before the answer arrived.
 1. Sometimes God uses the time between to deepen our dependence on Him and our humility before Him
 2. Our response to perceived unanswered prayer is humility, not anger, bitterness or resentment.

**God is so serious about your transformation in Christ, that He is willing to make or allow you to wait.

- B. Daniel's prayers, from a position of humility, had enough power and persuasion for God to literally reposition the heavenly armies!
 - 1. The focus is not angels and demons, but we must take the unseen spiritual battle very seriously.
 - 2. There is unbelievable power in a prayer that comes from a position of humility.

Intro communion

Then read John 17