

P254

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

THEME: Taking a stand - part 4

SONGS: HE'LL DO IT AGAIN

I'LL TALK TO THE FATHER

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We've been studying the lives of four teenaged Jewish boys, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They have remained faithful to Jehovah God, despite the many tests they've endured. On our last program, they were faced with a trial that could have taken their lives, but once again their faith in God and dependence on Him carried them through. Today, Barbara Sandbek will take an in-depth look at their response to that trial and show how we, too, can exercise the same kind of faith. So, keep listening...this message might be just what you need.

A Babylonia proverb stated..."If a man cannot remember the dream he saw, his personal god is angry with him". This helps explain Nebuchadnezzar's panic over forgetting his dream--and his promise of lavish rewards for those who recalled and interpreted it.

Daniel 2:1-6 reads...

Nebuchadnezzar had dreams: his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means." Then the astrologers answered the king..."O king live forever! Tell your servants the dream and we will interpret it. The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided. If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

The astrologers answered, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks...No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men."

They were right. Their gods didn't live among men...in fact they didn't even live. It WAS an impossible thing for a MAN to do, but with Jehovah God, who forever lives and lives within the heart of man through the Holy Spirit - nothing is impossible.

The astrologers' response made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of ALL the wise men of Babylon. Men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

When I study Scripture, I look at what people do and what they don't do.

What didn't Daniel do? He didn't POUT. Why, because he knew he was in God's hands. He trusted that God would do things right, even if it seemed impossible. Because of this – he didn't PANIC, either. When you think about it, panic confirms your hopelessness, and PROHIBITS you from thinking clearly.

So, what DID Daniel do?

First, he PLANNED his approach using the wisdom of God. Daniel 2:14 says that Daniel spoke with tact to the commander of the king's guard to find out the whole story. Then he went to the king and asked for time so that he might interpret the dream for him.

James 1:5 says that we, as Believers in Christ, can also ask God for wisdom. It reads....

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask of God, who gives generously to all, without finding fault, and it will be given him.

Though Daniel was wise and strong, he realized he couldn't do this alone. He got together a PARTY of PRAYER WARRIORS – his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. I think, so often, we don't want to admit we need help. Sure, we pray for others, but asking for prayer for ourselves...well that's embarrassing. No that's being proud. Galatians 6:2a says...Bear ONE ANOTHER'S burdens. That's reciprocal. Oh, it may be humbling, but it's needful.

There is power in collective prayer. Jesus says to us in Matthew 18:19-20...

I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my Name, there am I with them.

What might you be missing out on, just because you haven't asked for prayer support? There isn't anything more comforting than hearing the words..."I'm praying for you."

***** I'LL TALK TO THE FATHER *****

Daniel urged his prayer partners to PLEAD for mercy. What is mercy, anyway? Mercy is compassion instead of severity shown to someone who doesn't deserve it. Is that what we plead for? Or do we just expect what we ask for? They had a humble attitude – one that God will surely reward.

Daniel PERSISTED in prayer. Verse 19 says...

During the NIGHT, the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

I like what one commentary said...

Daniel and His friends had displayed such an uncompromising spirit that spectacular opportunities were opened for God to display His power on their behalf.

To this I say, O God, am I so committed to You, that I pave the way for your work and power to be shown – or am I standing in the way of a miracle for my lack of faith and faithfulness? Now, that's something to think about.

Daniel didn't PANIC or POUT, rather, he PLANNED, PRAYED, PLEADED and PERSISTED. The benefit? He and ALL the wise men lived. God pulled them through as He'd done before, and He can do it for you, too, when you call on His Name.

**** HE'LL DO IT AGAIN ****

.....
If you've been blessed by this program please write and tell us at...

Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

or visit us at our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!