



CBS



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COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday July 29th, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #034

Text: Daniel 3; Psalm 23

Theme: Sustaining your new Identity, Part 3

Words in marble: Where the will of God takes you, His grace will sustain you.

Every new level has a new challenge. At every stage of Christ's walk on earth, He faced new resistance, conflict and opposition. As believers, we are not immune from the same challenges. We learnt in the last study that confronting the status quo is not optional if you want to reach and stay on top. This however comes with a price. If well handled the encounter could be a stepping stone to greatness or it could turn out to be an experience that snowballs into a terrible loss. We want to learn how to navigate our way in the face of inevitable uncertainties and move on from one level to another- Check Psalm 23.

1. Dangerous trend

Most times in life, we are ill-prepared for the after effect of a major success, accomplishment or promotion. While basking in the euphoria, we throw caution to the wind, forget our ourselves and live carelessly. We lower our guard and make ourselves vulnerable to attack. 2 Corinth 10:12.

2. Basic understanding

- **Every new level attracts a new devil.**

At every stage of Christ's mission on earth, He met with different challenges and problems but in each He was triumphant, Luke 4:1-13; Hebrew 2:18; 4:14-16.

- **Fresh challenges are necessary to gain perfection and mastery over all.** It's in areas where you have overcome you assume authority over. The subsequent challenges are to build stature in the spirit for us, consolidate on our character and confirm our preparedness for greater responsibility- **Hebrew 5: 5-9. James 1:2-4; Romans 5:1-5. See Joseph in Psalm 105:17-21.**

- **They are orchestrated by God for His glory and to be a witness among men.** This we shall see in our case study.

3. Practical cases to relate with, Romans 15:4

Using the scenario in the life of Jesus and the Hebrew Children in Babylon, we observe the plotting and intrigue as they confront the status quo, assert control and maintain their new level. Their earlier victories drew no respect for their personalities, nor did it trigger the enemy's acceptance of defeat and surrender, nor did it stop further onslaught against their position and well being. They however gained understanding, out manoeuvred the enemy and rose above every fresh conflict, manipulation and scheming.

4. Lessons:

A. There is no recess in the spirit.

Every achievement is contested for. For the Hebrew boys, there was a quick succession of fault finding and schemes against them. From a sword dangling over them for the interpretation of a dream they knew nothing about to the king's command to worship the gold image, followed by the lion's den experience, the Hebrew boys did not fall or falter. The Devil will be on your case to scare you into submission and to harass you. Do not fear, be vigilant. All those experiences are prelude to further promotion. Maintain an open communication with God- 1 Peter 5:6-10; Daniel 1, 2, 3, 6 (**Check also Daniel 2: 14-23, 46-49; 3:26-30; 6:24-28**)

SUSTAINING YOUR NEW IDENTITY 3 *(Continued)*

B. Make up your mind from the onset to keep your space.

There is no free gift in the kingdom, including our salvation package. All has been paid for by someone and must be guarded jealously. This entrenches a culture of preservation. Similarly, every other attainment must be preserved. There is no room for a laiser-faire mentality or permissiveness. However, this is a choice. **Daniel 1:8, Jude 3-4; Philippians 2:12-16. Psalm 20.**

C. Be committed to your conviction.

We have to work out our conviction. Make up your mind from the onset and keep the same posture. We must establish a strong connection with God who establishes purpose in our heart that keeps us from wavering. Daniel 1:8; Psalm 112:1-12. **When you do not live for something, you will fall for everything. When you understand the reason, you can go through the season.** Check out Mordecai's ground for non-compliance, Esther 3:1-4.

D. Have a strategic perspective while the journey lasts.

We must keep our gaze on the destination as the joy of some drowns the pain, seeming frustrations, delays, discouragement, cruelty and isolation. **Daniel 3:16-18; Hebrew 12:1-2; Paul in Philippians 3:12-16; 1 Corinth 9: 24-end.**

E. Realise that the God head will conflict with the gold head.

There will always be a clash between the two kingdoms- the kingdom of God and the Babylonian Kingdom.. The Babylonian system runs contrary to our faith. Our position in Christ elicits wrath from the opposing camp that war against us daily. We must not be taken unawares. The battle line has been drawn and our victory is assured from onset. We fight from point of victory. **Daniel 3; Genesis 3:14-15; Galatians 5:16-26; Matthew 11:12. Romans 8:31-39, (1 Corinth 10: 13).**

F. Refuse the tyranny of urgency or desperation, Isaiah 28:16

The system will always present desperate and compelling situations that will leave you with no option but to comply or compromise. The instrument of the state often collaborates in entrenching fear to enforce compliance to the established compromised structure. We are often pressured to tow traditional lines to maintain our level or advance to the next. Nevertheless, resist the temptation for God is there with you. **Psalms 2; check Daniel 2, 3&6 (the King always gives assent), Matthew 4:1-11; Deuteronomy 20. Consider the battles of Paul, Acts 16.**

Prayer

Lord, strengthen my faith and grant me grace to stand against all odds.