

THE YOUNG AND RESTLESS KING

Daniel 2:1-23



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we continued our series in Daniel as Pastor Peter shared about the contrasting characters we find in chapter 2 - King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel. Whereas King Nebuchadnezzar is a powerful king who has come to conquer everything around him - the one thing he could not conquer was the spiritual realm, and it led him to a place of despair, angst, and anxiety as he could not sleep because of the dream that he had.

Because of his angst and anxiety, it leads him to make decisions that would threaten the lives of many around him as he becomes paranoid of even the wise men surrounding him. He becomes a restless and ruthless king.

Daniel on the other hand is the reliant and rested servant. He has no power and is in a lowly place compared to King Nebuchadnezzar, but he is able to speak with truth and wisdom to those above him with courage and poise. He is the conquered slave that is able to have inner peace because of his reliance upon the God of all creation, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Daniel's reliance upon God is something that has been ingrained into his being, and it shows in the way he is able to have peace from God as he stands before King Nebuchadnezzar.



OUTLINE

1 THE RESTLESS AND RUTHLESS KING
 King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful person in the empire, and yet he was filled with angst and anxiety as he wrestled with the (spiritual) dream that he could not 'conquer.' In his angst and anxiety, he threatens to hurt many people around him - as he is driven to fear and paranoia over what the dream means. In some ways, we are similar. When we have a bad day or realize we don't have control, our angst and anxiety can also affect those around us (sometimes, the families that we love the most). King Nebuchadnezzar may have conquered everything around him - but he has not yet been able to conquer his inner world.

2 THE RELIANT AND RESTED SERVANT
 Daniel on the other hand is in no position of power. He is a slave from Jerusalem at the mercy of the King - but he has such poise and courage because he rests in the presence of God. He is not only given favor from the Lord, but he has disciplined himself so that he would always seek God and continually be reliant upon him. This brings peace and stillness in his inner world when the circumstances around him in the natural realm are dire and threatening (as he and his friends were effectively sentenced to death).



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

When was a time you were "angsty", restless or angry? How did you act? How did you treat others?

2

How controlling are you? When things fall out of your control, how do you act? How does that make the people around you feel?

3

When we face times of crisis, are we quick to rely on God? If not, why?

4

Are there things in our lives that are causing us to feel restless right now that God is inviting us to lay down before Him?

5

How can we be a stable and calm platform/presence to those we serve and those around us?

6

How can we give our burdens and anxieties to God and receive rest, peace and sleep from Him?



BIG IDEA

May we be rested and reliant servants - not just relying upon the faith of our early days, but constantly coming back to God in earnest prayer and reliance. May God give us a peace and stillness so that we are able to rest even when the circumstances around us seem hopeless and bleak.