

The Courage to Change – January 26-27, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Daniel 3

- What did King Nebuchadnezzar create (1)? Summarize all that happened when the image was revealed (2-7). Describe the astrologers' denouncement of the Jews exiled in Babylon (8-12). Whom in particular did they target (12)? Why do you think they did this? How did the King respond to this news (13-15)?
- Summarize the three men's response to Nebuchadnezzar (16-18). Meditate on verse 18. Knowing it may bring personal suffering, it takes a lot of courage to resist the evil undercurrents of culture. How is this true for you? Is God asking you to resist dominant culture in a way that will cost you? Listen for his voice now.
- Describe the consequence of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's refusal to worship the image (19-23). What miracle then happened (24-27)? How did Nebuchadnezzar respond (28-30)? This story ends well for the three faithful men, but what about acts of courage that don't end well? Respond to the Lord.

Day Two: Mark 5:25-34

- Describe the plight of the woman in this story (25-26). Upon reading about her, what emotions are you experiencing? How would it feel to be this woman? What was her act of courage, and how did it pay off for her (27-29)?
- Some combination of desperation and faith in Jesus sparked the woman's willingness to act. What compels you to be courageous? Ask God to give you a different outlook on challenging circumstances in your life; where you once saw futility or felt despair, may you now sense courage welling up inside you.
- How did Jesus respond to the woman's touch (30)? In reply to his question, what did the disciples say (31)? How do you think Jesus knew that it was one specific person who received his healing power? How did he get the real answer to his question (33)? What did Jesus say to the woman (34)? Re-read verse 33. Courage is not the absence of fear. What does this mean for you today?

Day Three: John 6:25-59

- Set the scene of this text (25, 59). Trace Jesus' transition from statements about physical life to spiritual life (26-27). What role does he play regarding life (27)? What is "the work of God" (29)? What is "the bread of God" (33)? What does it mean that Jesus is "the bread of life" (35)? Jesus then says some listening still "do not believe" in him. Why do you think so?
- What's the story arc of those given to Jesus (37-40)? Life eternal is the culmination of following him. Speak to the Lord about this. How can you point others toward the life found only in Jesus?
- What objection did some in the crowd then have (41-42)? Summarize Jesus' response (43-51). What phrases and themes did he re-emphasize? Why? What was the next point of contention (52)? And Jesus' reply (53-58)? To feed on Jesus is to live. What do you make of this? Why do you think Jesus used such graphic and visceral imagery to convey that he is the source of life?

Day Four: Romans 5:12-21

- How are sin and death related (12)? What about the relationship between sin and the law (13)? Why is death more powerful than both sin and the law (14)? In referring to Adam, what does Paul mean by “a pattern of the one to come”?
- What makes “the gift” – eternal life – different from sin, the law and death (15-17)? Which of Paul’s points here speak most deeply to your heart? Which cause you to exclaim, “Yes, God is a God of life!”? Only through the deeds of one man – Jesus Christ – is eternal life possible. May this help you to put your striving, your fears and your past into perspective. God is bigger!
- What does Paul then say about “all people” (18)? How do people go from “sinners” to “righteous” (19)? Where do we see grace increase (20)? Describe its reign (21). God’s grace is available for all people, even in places where sin is increasing. In what ways might you resist this truth? What hope does it give you?

Day Five: 2 Timothy 1:6-14

- How did Timothy receive the gift of God, and how is he to steward it (6)? What does the Spirit of God do for believers (7)? Therefore, how does the Holy Spirit give courage to change? Imagine trading timidity for power, love and self-discipline. How would this change your life, especially the more challenging aspects?
- What encouragement and invitation does Paul offer (8, 12)? Describe the beginnings of salvation and calling (9). How was this great plan revealed (10)? What has Jesus destroyed, and what has he brought to light (10)? What does Paul see as his role in all of this (11-12)? What do you see as *your* role? What story can you tell the world of Jesus’ death-destroying and life-bringing power?
- What does Paul want Timothy to do with everything he’s taught him (13-14)? What patterns of “sound teaching” and “good deposits” exist in your own life? Pray for more. May you steward them well and may they give you courage to change.