**Community Group Questions**

October 7, 2018

Pastor Mike Irwin- “Living Courageously in Colliding Cultures”

**Read Daniel 4**

**Mike’s Observations**

1. Here we go again: where the king dreams, the court is useless, & Daniel is called on for wisdom
2. Unbelievable developments:
	* where the king is given 12 months
		+ to stop sinning
		+ acknowledge God with honor, power & praise
	* where the king’s continued pride causes consequences to ensue
3. Everything changes: where the king praises God & returns to sanity

**Discussion Questions**

Thinking ofKing Nebuchadnezzar when he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor’ look at the following verses:

**Read Psalm 49:4-20 & Jeremiah 9:22-24**

1. What are the truths about humankind?
2. What do these verses say about the character of God?
3. What are we to boast in and not boast in? Why?
4. What do you find yourself boasting in or trusting in?

**Read Ephesians 2:8-9 & I Corinthians 1:26-31**

1. Why can we not “boast in the presence of God?”

**Romans 15:18 & Galatians 6:14**

1. What are some things we should boast in? Why?
2. What is the importance of these things in your life?
3. What things has Christ done through you?

**Prayer–**Please take a moment to pray for one another, that we may boast in Christ alone, His finished work for us, and that we would feel the urgency to share that “He made us right with God; He made us pure and holy, and freed us from sin” (I Cor 1:30) so that others may be free. Pray for opportunities to share this truth with those God lays on our hearts.

# **Psalm 49:4-20 (NLT)**

**4**I listen carefully to many proverbs
    and solve riddles with inspiration from a

 harp.

**5**Why should I fear when trouble comes,
    when enemies surround me?
**6**They trust in their wealth
    and boast of great riches.
**7**Yet they cannot redeem themselves from

 death by paying a ransom to God.
**8**Redemption does not come so easily,
    for no one can ever pay enough
**9**to live forever and never see the grave.

**10**Those who are wise must finally die,
    just like the foolish and senseless,
    leaving all their wealth behind.
**11**The grave is their eternal home,
    where they will stay forever.
 They may name their estates after

 themselves,
**12**but their fame will not last.
    They will die, just like animals.
**13**This is the fate of fools,
    though they are remembered as being

 wise. *Interlude*

**14**Like sheep, they are led to the grave,
    where death will be their shepherd.
 In the morning the godly will rule over them.
    Their bodies will rot in the grave,
    far from their grand estates.
**15**But as for me, God will redeem my life.
    He will snatch me from the power of the

 grave. *Interlude*

**16**So don’t be dismayed when the wicked grow

 rich and their homes become ever more

 splendid.
**17**For when they die, they take nothing with

 them. Their wealth will not follow them into

 the grave.
**18**In this life they consider themselves fortunate
    and are applauded for their success.
**19**But they will die like all before them
    and never again see the light of day.
**20**People who boast of their wealth don’t

 understand; they will die, just like animals.

# **Jeremiah 9:22-24 (NLT)**

**22**This is what the Lord says:
 “Bodies will be scattered across the fields like

 clumps of manure, like bundles of grain after

 the harvest.
    No one will be left to bury them.”

**23**This is what the Lord says:
 “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom,
    or the powerful boast in their power,
    or the rich boast in their riches.
**24**But those who wish to boast should boast in

 this alone: that they truly know me and

 understand that I am the Lord who

 demonstrates unfailing love and who brings

 justice and righteousness to the earth, and

 that I delight in these things.  I, the Lord, have

 spoken!

# **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)**

**8**God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9**Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

# **1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NLT)**

**26**Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthywhen God called you. **27**Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. **28**God chose things despised by the world,things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. **29**As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. **30**God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. **31**Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord.”

# **Romans 15:18 (NLT)**

**18**Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them.

# **Galatians 6:14 (NLT)**

**14**As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross,my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died.