

Greetings from.....I just brings ...

The youth ministry appreciates your support and prayers. The camp, the production, the fellowships...

Continue opening your homes for such gatherings...They open our hearts for his glory to be experience

We are building... I have used my singleness to get you building and finish...but it isn't happening as quickly as I'd like...So I have fought the good fight and I have run the race... A crown awaits me next month

This month is themed discipling generations .

Today's topic is the Lord the source of all knowledge

You Know....

Ever wonder what you'd do if you knew what you know now back when you didn't? Think about it . Ever asked yourself if your life would have significantly changed if you knew more than what you know now? Say if you could read thoughts, if you knew the future. If you could see into a distant time and make a decision that would ultimately change the course of history as we know it. ... If you had that kind of power , what would you do with it ? I bet the answer to that question is usually geared to improve oneself. To make better your odds. To improve on your lifestyle or give more time to the things that matter to you. This kind of power would bring you into the lime light. We have seen it. Self proclaiming prophets that declare their ability to see something no one really has seen and yet every one craves for it. It is incredible how quickly he is honoured and adored because of this gift . Knowledge. However myopic it may be, it is top priority in many people's lives.

Phrases like "knowledge is power" , "when you know you know" have been used to emphasis the importance of this great mystery called knowledge.

It was what the Babylonian empire searched for. It's what the great men of old craved for. Through time, It is the single most sought after and yet unattainable entity in all of history. Knowledge is simply infinite. It is not something you can have enough of. The more you know, the more you want to know . The more you known how much you don't know.

So was the setting in the Babylonian empire. The King Nebucaddunessa was in search for power to conquer the world as much as he could. His method was to attack, capture and enslave all his captives. Get the best minds, train them to serve him. His hunger for power was unquenchable and his strategy was

knowledge. He surrounded himself with magicians, diviners, mystical arts, astrologers, sorcerers, young men with an aptitude of learning. It was a combination of the most expensive, most secular, most intimidating arena of knowledge experts. It's as if he knew knowledge was power. And he wanted it all.

We see the climax of his narcissism, his self exaltation, his pride of life in Chapter 3 when he raises an image of himself for all to worship. Typical of any leader with absolute power. They tend to present themselves as more than they really are. No wonder when Paul while speaking about Christians who know better concerning food offered to idols, said, "Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

1 Corinthians 8:1 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1co.8.1.NIV>

It is sad that even in our own lives, thousands of years and a saviour crucified later, we still hold the same attitude the King Nebucaddunessa held.

We still surround ourselves with all sorts of literature. We look to this and that to try and know everything. We would have the power to live longer, do more, enjoy it all and repeat the process. We become domineering, controlling and overbearing. This is especially seen in the way we treat our little ones. Because of our knowledge, our experience and our expertise, it is very easy for us to crave the admiration of those in our care.

We see this every day. Look at the news, look at the tabloids, look at the entertainment world. We see the corruption of knowledge. Our children are more informed about sex than we adults are. They read, they learn from those they admire in magazines, on tv and movies, shows and entertainment.

Look at our universities. Filled with sugar daddies that work hard to get enough money, enough knowledge and enough wit to prey on the young and innocent girls that do not KNOW better.

Look at the pornography industry and how it has captured young men who go to great lengths to KNOW of pleasures untold and unknown.

Look at the controlling husbands that pay for surveillance, hire private investigators and hack and track their wives to KNOW their every move so they can have power over them?

Look at the abusive mothers and wives who look for and use manipulative and well-crafted words from hell to dominate and control their young men and their husbands. "you good for nothing...you will never be enough....I should have married the other man with the money..."

Look at the millions of babies mutilated daily because of convenience. A false knowledge of rights and freedoms that has led to nations approving such heinous acts of pointless abortions.

See the brokenness in our governing systems where lives are taken, lies are told and the truth is twisted so that knowledge is only for the rich and powerful .

People do perish for lack of knowledge.

Our children, the next generation, the future of our nation, are being born daily into the whirl wind of a brokenness so big that I wonder sometimes, what is the point. Why bring a life into a world like this?

How are we discipling our children. What knowledge are we imparting on them ?

Could there be something we could do to protect them from all this...keep their innocence and allow them to just be? Is there anything that can be done?

Sometimes, in the desperate attempts to either keep them from harm or have them toughen up, we leave them to the wolves of this world that fill their hearts with pride and train their minds to pursue our version of knowledge. Our own image of power. .. The replication of self interest and self preservation and self absorption is uncanny .

We are the Nebuchadnezzars in the story. Many many times.

But in God's sovereignty, we see him bring to light a simple but profound reality.

Let's see it.

Daniel was a record of the first of three invasions from Babylon that obliterated Judah because of their disobedience, their idolatry and their impunity... Yes. GOD takes credit for this exile as a wake up call for the Israelites. They were to bring glory to God . Nations were to know God through them... one way or another. He is sovereign like that. So into exile he sent them. It was there the story begins.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

We see these young men baptised into a foreign, pagan culture, not of their own will or their own doing. The sins of their “fathers” led them to this point. The idolatry, and the disobedience of their nation seems to have dealt these young men with an unfair hand. They clearly seem like they could have soared above the storm and come away from the calamity that befell them. But here they are. In captivity. And now tasked to serve a master they neither respected nor desired. And yet there was something wildly different about these young men. A peculiar group whose innocence notwithstanding embrace the odds.

If this happened in our times , it would be called a generational curse. A spiritual bondage that needs to be broken so we may be freed from our enemies. It is unfortunate that such misinformation is misunderstood to be true knowledge. We find Christians desperately spending hours on end in church buildings and hardly building the church. They are crippled by and gripped with fear of the unknown that their attempts to seek prophets, men of God, apostles and pastors is the this end. To have knowledge. To have power. To overcome. We have fallen victim of our own fallenness... The desire to preserve self at whatever cost.

Not so with these young men. They stood out and completely revolutionised the governing systems of the day. Even amidst possible persecution , incredible ridicule and perhaps even immanent death, these young men knew something no one else knew. There was a power they posses no one else had.

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 1:3-8 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/dan.1.3-8.NIV>

This is a clear indication of a knowledge they possessed. The law of Moses prohibited them from eating unclean foods that were served at that time and the wine was used to honour the Babylonian pagan gods.

Daniel was schooled and dicipled by someone and was teaching him the right things. While the whole nation was going astray, Daniel had a community in which the truth was continuing to be taught. This wasn't about the credibility of the food, it was more about the obedience of the truth he knew.

Daniel was discipled . Daniel was positioned. It was not that the enemy threw first and God somehow saved him from them. GOD had a plan. For the nations to KNOW him. For his name to be named far and wide. Daniel was part of the plan. The mission of God to bring his kingdom into the world. To make his name known in his time. Babylon was not some pointless bondage, the king wasn't some ruthless ruler, ... everything was orchestrated to execute this one grand plan. For the world to KNOW him. His mission. His intention. HIS POWER. It is littered all over scripture.

Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known.

Psalms 106:8 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.106.8.NIV>

For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely.

Isaiah 48:9 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/isa.48.9.NIV>

God reminding Ezekiel about the rescue mission from Egypt gives the reason saying,

14 But for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.

22 But I withheld my hand, and for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.

Ezekiel 20:14, 22 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/ezk.20.14-22.NIV>

It pleased the Lord for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

Isaiah 42:21 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/isa.42.21.NIV>

The famous Psalm 23 seems like God is about us but it's intentions are clear within its tenets.

he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:3 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.23.3.NIV>

God revealed himself to The Egyptians that held captive the people of God.

I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Exodus 14:17-18 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/exo.14.17-18.NIV>

Scripture is filled with God's intention. That the world will KNOW him. He is for his own glory. His name's sake. His righteousness' sake.

Daniel and his friends seem to have known about this. They seemed to be aware that whilst they were in captivity, in a distant land and were ruled by a pagan king, God's name, his glory and his power would be displayed through them.

Their motivation for obedience to God's law was not for the fear of His wrath but for the glory of His name.

Daniel and his friends, in spite of the sinful state of their nation, in spite of the desperate situation of captivity, in spite of anticipated trials and tribulations because of their convictions, they still held firmly to the truth of God they knew.

They took a risk on God. They are what the king didn't offer in obedience to God. Knowing they could be destroyed together with the guard they had found favour with. The guard took a risk on them, fed them with vegetables and water and God came through in wondrous ways.

To these four young men **God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.** And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. **In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.**

Daniel 1:17-20 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/dan.1.17-20.NIV>

The secret was not in the vegetables ladies and gentlemen. The secret was not in their aptitude even. It wasn't in their reading .

Please Note. They had to read and they had to learn and understand the culture in which they were captives.

BUT it was God almighty who gave them knowledge and wisdom. It was the Lord who was setting them up to be used as vessels for his glory. That the greatest empire and most wicked enemy to Israel at that time was going to witness the greatest and only God ever to exist in all of history for all time.

Bless the name of the Lord.

The earth indeed will be filled with the Glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. GOD WILL SEE TO IT.

What are we to do with this ?

You who are raising a generation, you who are being raised, there is only one thing to know.

While we may be in a dark time, while sinfulness and wickedness may be at it's all time high yet, while all seems bleak for the future of your children, while it seems like our nation is about to implode because of its wickedness,

God in his mighty mighty power and infinite wisdom will continue to raise a true remnant. Not the kind we are getting familiar with here, not the kind that belongs to a weak and fleeting modern day prophet... but the kind that belongs only to the Lord of Hosts. The saviour of the world the king of kings and Lord of Lords.

He has ordained a time like this for you to be in the place you are that He may be glorified. That He may be seen. That He may be KNOWN.

The greatest knowledge any man will ever encounter is his purpose.

I am reminded of the quote, "there are two most important days in man's life. The day they were born and the day they discover why?"

To know one's purpose is acknowledge that there was an intention for their creation. A recognition of a Transcendent power that planned their existence.

Christians have the privilege of knowing this power closely and intimately. We have access to the source of why we exist.

The omniscient one. The source of all knowledge.

In conclusion

It boggles my mind how we miss this every time. We want his knowledge and his power but hardly ever him. We feel like he is baggage we don't need. Just his power. That's all. So we treat our relationship with him like that. Come to church, throw around a few words because it's what will appease him so he can give us good grades, good jobs, good cars, good money, good houses, good health.

Jesus, while teaching us to pray to God, displayed profound principles. He said.

When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

Matthew 6:7-8 NLT

<https://bible.com/bible/116/mat.6.7-8.NLT>

The Father already knows. He is the source. What are we to do? How do we approach a God who already knows everything in our hearts. We can't even pretend to love him even if we tried. He knows it all. He knows us well.

We must pursue Him. Seek to know him.

Paul, a scholar of the Jewish law and a great debater, a refined and seasoned apostle.... As good as they come considered this. In all his achievements and all his glorious feats he had this to say

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8 What is more, **I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10. **I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.**

Philippians 3:7-11 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/php.3.7-10.NIV>

My father said to me as I grew up,

“to know Christ is eternal life, and to serve him is perfect freedom.

Know him and make him known.

This is discipleship .

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