

TURNAROUND!

DANIEL 9:1-19



BACKGROUND

- Today's lesson is set in the first year of the reign of Darius, the Mede.
- Recall, the Medes came to power and claimed the realm of the Chaldeans after Belshazzar was slain. **Daniel 5:30-31**
- The writing on the wall – *MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN*. **Daniel 5:25**
- Daniel, witnessing the destruction of Jerusalem and the plight of God's people, offers a sincere prayer for Judah.
- Daniel spends considerable time highlighting and emphasizing Judah's pain and suffering were self-imposed.



- *[W]e have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. **Daniel 9:5***
- *Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets who spoke in your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and to all the people of the land. **Daniel 9:6***
- *O Lord, belongs to us shame of face . . . because we have sinned against you. **Daniel 9:8***
- **Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore, the curse and the oath written in the law of Moses . . . Have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. **Daniel 9:11; Deuteronomy 28:15-68****



Yet, in this sea of despair, Daniel recognizes that there is a blessed hope and a path to a brighter day and future.

It requires a shift in thought, change of attitude and redirection of conduct.

As Daniel points out, all this disaster has come, yet the people have not made prayer before God, “**that we might turn from our iniquities** and understand Your truth.” See **Daniel 9:13**



Years before these events, God appeared to Solomon a second time, shortly following the completion and dedication of the newly constructed temple, and proclaimed . . .

*When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, **and turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven, then I will forgive their sin and heal their land. **II Chronicles 7:13***

Reminds me of the story of a successful woman, who summed her life story (autobiography) in just four (4) brief chapters.



CHAPTER I

- I woke up this morning and started down the sidewalk.
- There was a deep hole in the sidewalk; I fell into the hole.
- It was not my fault.
- It took me a long time to dig out of the hole.

Recall that Satan is always on the hunt and we have to remain vigilant and aware of what's going on around us. He is no friend. **See I Peter 5:8**



CHAPTER II

- I got up this morning and started on my way.
- I walked in the same direction as I had in days gone by.
- There was the same deep hole in the sidewalk; and I fell into the hole.
- It was my fault.
- It took me a long time to dig out of the hole.



- The hole did not go anywhere.
- Unless it was covered or filled, it presented the same perils and produced the same outcome.
- Same conditions, same result.
- This time it was probably was more painful because she know the hole was there and the experiences she had the first time.
- To her credit, however, she took responsibility, which is often the first step to a better life experience.



CHAPTER III

- I awakened this morning and started down the sidewalk.
- I saw the hole in the sidewalk.
- I walked around the hole.
- It saved a lot of time, energy and anxiety.



CHAPTER IV

- I woke up this morning and started my day.

I went a different way.

**LIFE BECAME SWEETER, MORE
REWARDING AND MORE
MEANINGFUL ALMOST
INSTANTANEOUSLY!!!**



- Here, the author exhibited even greater wisdom and exercised yet better discretion.
- I know what the other side has to offer, and I want no part of it.
- Instead of wading through the minutia, I'll avoid it altogether.

*A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished. **Proverbs 27:12***



Becoming all we can be and coming
to a place we can realize our full
potential as parents, leaders,
Christians is simply a matter of
TURNING AROUND!



The Prodigal Son figured it out . . .

*But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **I will arise and go to my father . . .**”* **Luke 15:17-18**

After he turned around, his life took flight again. He was back in the sheltering cover of the father’s house!



Through life experiences, I have learned that some practices just do not work and are counterproductive, and the longer we engage in them, the deeper we fall.

- Chronic tardiness
- Settling for mediocrity
- Lack of zeal
- Taking it easy all the time (the proverbial writer refers to it as slothfulness)
- Lack of passion and drive (going through the motions)



As God's people, we learn that when we engage in sinful and unscriptural practices, God deals with us.

*... My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. **Hebrews 12:5-6***

**God simply want his children
to **TURNAROUND** when they are on
the wrong track!**



A FEW INTROSPECTIVE QUERIES, AS WE CLOSE . . .

- **Why should I live beneath a level God intended for me?**
- **Why should I suffer and perish when I can be thriving, not just surviving?**
- **Why should I settle for just doing enough to get by in school, when I am capable of much more?**
- **Why should I settle for a life of mediocrity when I can be a game changer, making and effecting positive change in the lives of those I love?**
- **Why continue to give minimal effort and go through the motions and waste the talents God has given me?!**



*Seek the Lord while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near. Let the
wicked man forsake his way, and the
unrighteous man his thoughts; **Let him
return to the Lord;** and He will have
mercy on him; and to our God, for he
will abundantly pardon. **Isaiah 55:6-7***



LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7**);

Believe (**Acts 15:7; Hebrews 11:6**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**);

Confess (**Acts 8:36**);

Be baptized for the remission of
sin (**Acts 2:38**) **or**



LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord **(I John 1:8-9)**; or
- Desire prayer. **(James 5:16)**.



***May GOD richly
bless you!***

