



Sermon Series: Finding True Courage

FLUMMOXED & FLABBERGASTED


DANIEL 2:1-24

Hebrews 11:6 (TNIV)

- Hebrews 11:6 (TNIV), *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*



Introduction

- To be flummoxed is to be confused.
 - To be flabbergasted is to be stunned or shocked.
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I. The King's Bad Night


- Daniel 2:12-13 (NIV):
- ¹²Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. ¹³So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

Daniel 2:14-16 (NIV)

- ¹⁴Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.



The King's Bad Night (cont'd)

- Flummoxed or confused describes the king (vv.1-3)
 - Flabbergasted or shocked describes the advisors (vv.4-15)
 - Faith describes Daniel (v.16)
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The King's Bad Night (cont'd)

- These advisors were flabbergasted by such an idea. You can tell how shaken they were by the unusual tactic they took in the midst of their response. They told the king the truth!
- *¹¹"The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."*
- Something absolutely remarkable happens in v.16.

The King's Bad Night (cont'd)


- The NASB says Daniel, "requested of the king that he would give him time."
- But the marginal note translates it more literally: "He requested that the king would appoint a time for him" (v.16).
- In other words, he didn't ask the king for more time; he asked the king to look at his calendar and find a time when Daniel could get thirty minutes with him (in a manner of speaking).

II. Mushrooms & Oak Trees

- When God implants spiritual life in our hearts by the miracle of regeneration, we call out to Christ as our only hope of salvation.
- Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be “born again” (John 3:3).
- When a person is born, growth becomes critical.



Mushrooms & Oak Trees (cont'd)

- In other words, the goal of spiritual life is the same as that of physical life: maturity. We are to grow up in Him.
 - Maturity is usually a slow process.
 - But sometimes God breaks the mold, working swiftly in a person's life.
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Mushrooms & Oak Trees

(cont'd)

- Isaiah 61:3 (NASB), "They will be called oaks of righteousness."
- Daniel and his friends were a rare breed-they were oaks at an early age.
- He acted with "discretion and discernment" (Dan. 2:14 NASB) and calmly proceeded to arrange a meeting with the king to give him the interpretation.
- There was just one small problem. At that point, Daniel didn't know the interpretation.

III. A Handshake Faith with God (Dan. 2:17-20 NIV)

- ¹⁷ Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said:

Daniel 2:20-23 (NIV)

- “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.
²¹ He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.
²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.
²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.”

Daniel 2:24 (NIV)

- ²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”

A Handshake Faith (cont'd)

- Hebrews 11:6 (TNIV), *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*
- The first ingredient in faith is believing God exists.

A Handshake Faith (cont'd)

- The second ingredient is believing that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. It's believing that God will honor His promises.
- Luke 18:1-8 (the story of the persistent widow)
- None of us starts off in the Christian life with all of the acts and facts. Most of us begin our walk down the road of faith by asking a few very important questions-and then building on that foundation.

A Handshake Faith (cont'd)

- Zechariah 4:10 warns us not to despise, “the day of small things.”
- Some of God’s greatest works began small- and that includes our faith.
- One of the things that builds our faith is seeing God answer prayer in remarkable ways.



Invitation

- Luke 8:8 (NIV), *"However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*
- Will Jesus find faith in your heart?
- Will Jesus find faith at New Hope?