

Bible Study: St. John's – West Bend

February 9/10, 2022 - Pastor Jeff Hesse



Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. (Daniel 1:3-4)

Discipleship Stories & Opening Conversation:

You are wonderfully and fearfully made – Gifted! Where has Jesus placed you to live and use your gifts? Is this easy? Why? Why not?

Read: Jeremiah 29:4-14 / Daniel 1:1-21

- What is “exile” and why did some of God’s people get exiled?
- What jumps out at you in Daniel 1?
- Who is Daniel and his three friends? Who is in charge of them?
- Why might the “King Neb” of Babylon do this? Smart / dumb?
- Discuss God’s authority, His Word, presence, and grace in Daniel. How is God working through this? Who raised up Babylon? What about our community and its leaders?
- Was this “easy” for Daniel and the exiles? What do you think they experienced? Does this mean God is less present or in control?
- How does the Jeremiah text, Daniel’s life of faith, and God’s plan tie together? How does it connect to your life in culture now?
- How would you describe Daniel’s behavior, decisions? Yours?
- What does God have to say about applying your faith as you live in a community? Discuss real examples of this. What risks exist? What about God’s Word, presence, and grace for you? Your Community? Who is really in charge?

Luther on Daniel: *Thus, Daniel's life is nothing but a fine, clear mirror. In it we see the conflict and victory of faith, which, by the grace of God, triumphs over all men and devils; we see too the great fruit and use of faith, which it produces through patience and cross-bearing, both before God and the world.* (LW 35:298f)

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

- Speaking of the One truly in charge... What is Jesus telling His disciples? What does He call them?
- What does Jesus mean by “salt”? “Light”? Who’s salt/light?
- Tie this back to Daniel... What is Jesus saying to you about engaging your community? How should you live in the “places” that Jesus has put you in?
- Are you called to engage or disengage in culture? How?
- How does the “Gifted” series equip you in the following areas: God has created you fearfully & wonderfully, willingness, time/life experiences, a focus not on yourself but on God/your neighbor? **Then there’s this... your community!**



Jacques Joseph Tissot (French: [tiso]; October 15, 1836 – August 8, 1902) was a French painter and illustrator. He was a successful painter of Paris society before moving to London in 1871. He became famous as a genre painter of fashionably dressed women shown in various scenes of everyday life. He also painted scenes and figures from the Bible.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Closing Prayer