21 PAYS OF PRAYER

DAY 08

Michael Piett

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 9:2–6

Daniel's Prayer for His people

What difference can I make?

We often ask the question what difference can I make? Let's face it, if the whole country is heading in one direction, what can I possibly do to change that? There is only one of me! Other times, we reason and rightfully so, it is not in my control. There is nothing in my power to change this. It is easier to give up before we start anything that may fail. And what if the issue has been that way for so long that no one would ever expect it to change. Why bother? What difference can I make.

Around 606 B.C., Daniel could have easily fallen into that trap. Daniel was from Jerusalem and it was besieged by the king of Babylon who destroyed it. Some people that were captive were led back to Babylon approximately 2,700 km away to serve in the king's court. Imagine having your homeland ruined and forced to live in a foreign land where not only you were an outsider, but in reality a slave with no future. What difference could he make?

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² In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. ⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. (Daniel 9:2-6 NIV)

Daniel chose to seek God and pray on behalf of his country.

REFLECTIONS

- Daniel understood the Scriptures. Important discipline for believers to read the Bible.
- Daniel turned to the Lord God. It is our choice. Who or what will you choose to put your trust in?
- He pleaded in prayer & petition.
 Prayer moves from the physical battle to the spiritual battle.
- His posture was humble through fasting and in sackcloth and ashes. How serious are we with our prayers? Pausing to remember whose throne we are bowing too.
- The first thing he starts with is that he is a part of the problem. Not blaming his forefathers, his leaders. Taking his part of the ownership (The word 'we' 3 times).
- Prays even though he knows the length of time of captivity according to the prophets. Why should I pray if God knows everything already?

PRAYER

Lord, our great and awesome God, who keeps His promises, we have sinned and are in need of your grace and forgiveness. We desire for your Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Bless us Lord with your Holy Spirit to fill us and lead us in your ways. Amen.