

Sunday Morning | August 6, 2017



WHEN LIFE'S UPSIDE DOWN

DANIEL 1:1-7; PSALM 82:5 (LB), "But you are so foolish and so ignorant! Because you are in darkness, all the foundations of society are shaken to the core!"

TRUTH: Israel lost her freedom because she failed to listen to God.

TRUTH: In a decaying culture, God can bless His people to not only survive but to thrive and succeed.

I. DON'T LET DIFFICULTY SHOCK YOU (1 Peter 4:12; John 16:33 Msg).

TRUTH: Shake-ups will be a normal part of our lives because we live in a broken world.

TRUTH: When you focus on fixing the blame for your problems, you won't fix the problem.

FOUR BASIC CAUSES OF PROBLEMS IN ALL OUR LIVES:

1. Us
2. The world

INSIGHT: When we seek the approval of the world, we are bowing to what causes lots of our problems.

3. Satan
4. God

II. GOD'S USUAL MOTIVATIONS, Jeremiah 29:11

1. God allows a shaking in your life to examine you (Jeremiah 17:10).

TRUTH: God is interested more in our integrity than our image.

INSIGHT: Israel lost an entire generation in 40 years of pain and suffering because of lack of faith (Deuteronomy 2ff).

TRUTH: God uses the desert to test us (Deuteronomy 8:2).

QUESTION: Do you live your life for God even when you don't feel it but because it's the right thing to do?

2. God allows a shaking in your life to correct you (Hebrews 12:8-11).

3. God allows a shaking in your life to direct you (Proverbs 16:9).

TRUTH: Problems often change your plans; it's God's chosen method to redirect your life (Proverbs 20:30).

"One thing is true from the Bible: God wants you to not just survive in a hostile culture but to thrive, and to ensure that He is working on us all. What will you say to Him this morning?"