

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Nov 1, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA – **with a live audience**

Pastor: Dr. Darius Daniels – Nick name: "Red Zone" - See: <https://lifechange.org/about/our-pastors/>

- Author of a new book Relational Intelligence

Sermon Title: "I see It Now - Even in Job-Like seasons - Just because it does not make sense now does not mean it does not make sense – Gaining respect from a prior season – Where you sit determines what you see and what you see determines what you will do – Have a praise party instead of pity party in a season of ambiguity while waiting for answers – Have a Job-like commitment in a Job-like season."

Elevation Worship:

- "Gone" – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxHTUEhHoQg>
- King of Kings - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avBnNQ44yn4>
- The Blessing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6aygmVzM4> (over 33 million youtube views!)

Scripture for this week:

- **Numbers 6:** 2 The Lord said to Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 "The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'"
- **Job 42: 1 to 5:** 42 Then Job replied to the Lord: 2 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.
- **Job 1: 1 to 3:** 1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters, 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. 4 His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom. 6 One day the angel came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." 12 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

- **Job 38: 3 to 7:** Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?
- **Psalm 8:2:** Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
- **Isaiah 55: 8 to 9:** *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*

Pastor: Dr. Darius Daniels – ““I see It Now - Even in Job-Like seasons - Just because it does not make sense now does not mean it does not make sense – Gaining respect from a prior season – Where you sit determines what you see and what you see determines what you will do – Have a praise party instead of pity party in a season of ambiguity while waiting for answers – Have a Job-like commitment in a Job-like season.”

- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc.
- Reflect Night on Nov. 12, 2020 – A night for the women of Elevation Church – the event will be broadcasted live.
- Nov. 13, 2020 – a new Kids album from Elevation Worship
- **Here comes church:**
 - Video profile of Adelae from Winston Salem NC in serving youth worship + grieving following the death of two grandparents due to COVID + her baptism.
 - Video from Philippine Islands – Convey of Hope and Samaritans Purse dispatched to help families impacted in the Philippine Islands.
 - All 20 campuses are now meeting in some way – at reduced capacity.
 - It is great to start to gather back together again.
 - There are now 1,496 eGroups and 23 international watch parties.
- Prayer #1: Pastor Furtick’s opening prayer: “Right now God - whoever feels unseen – or whoever has been dealing with rejection – and has deep feelings of loneliness – I pray that you give them illumination right now – the visualization that you are looking at them right now – and when they see your face they would not see judgment or disappointment – and you continue to look on them with love – like the father who saw the prodigal son a long way off – and ran out to meet him – God is running to his children today in this moment – to bless them and not to curse them – here comes this assurance that the favor of the Lord is upon you – and the favor of the Lord is within you – the very same spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives within you – we are not alone – thank you

lord – if God is for you, it doesn't not matter who is against you – if God is fighting for you, who could be against you? Let's give him praise all over the place."

- Numbers 6: "The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."
- Recap from last week:
 - The conclusion that you come to is based on the belief that you start with – if you start with your faith with the expectation of never experiencing doubt, your faith will fall apart – and I hope it sets you free today that John – the one who said look here's the Lamb of God – he was the first one and we really have to stop and think about this – John is the person that announced this is the one – and the one that made the announcement is now asking are you really the one? John is now asking the question that he had been answering just one year ago – but he has been in prison for a year – and he is only getting second-hand reports as to what Jesus is doing – and it gets kind of hard to believe - when you're trapped in a place unable to see the big picture – then you start to believe different things – then you forget what God showed you in the spirit – and you start figuring it out in your mind – See Mathew 11 vs. 5.
 - When you believe that God is a certain way and you have the audacity to conform to the biography that you created – with your belief – and then you experience something you never expected – you come to the conclusion that God is not with you – because you started the belief system that God would always accommodate in accordance to your belief system.
 - John faithfully prepared the way and knew that he had to become less for Christ to become more – the one that knew him in the womb – does Jesus have a message for John and you? Does God have a word for your life today? I believe he does. See Mathew 11:5 to 6. Blessed who is anyone that does not stumble on account of me – tell John not to stumble – tell John that just like he is was first in life – he will be the first in death – and recall that John gave his life in prison for the cause of righteousness – and Jesus did not assure him with a sweet platitude – and Jesus did not assure him with a well written Pinterest link.
 - The Greek term is Skandalon – A stumbling Block or offense may cause you to trip and fall – that is getting in your way in your growth in faith.
 - It would be a shame for us to trip over something that is not even true – are you tripping over something that is not even true – are you staying away from God's presence because of an offense that you think God is holding over you? Are you running from a Jezebel that does not even have the power to take your life? For those that think that God will only love us later, perhaps we should be reminded what John stands for – the name John means loved – so in those moments that you cannot feel it – I want to encourage you to believe it – by faith – make a decision to jump all week long.
- Before you open any news app this week, make sure you open the Bible app that is both timeless in true – we all need this – to remind ourselves that our God is the everlasting God – faithfully enduring throughout all generations – and throughout the world. Lord we are praying for our nation this week as we participate in the process and we trust in God through it.
- **Prayer #2 by Pastor Furtick: "Father I thank you for your presence – I thank you that you are king of kings – and Lord there are so many uncertain outcomes – this year has been rehab for all of us control freaks out there – like me – that think we know what is going to happen as well as when**

it's going to happen – and who it should happen through – but we stand here today to transcend beyond news cycles, election cycles, tweeter feeds, and all of that – Yes Lord, we are concerned about many things – but we refuse to live in a state of panic, fear, and despair – Lord you did not call us to that – we're not praying about politics or results – we are praying for your people God – and we are thanking you for bringing us back to what really matters – and we are repenting all of the incorrect priorities that put us in many messes this year – the things that sidetrack us in the things we overlook – please Lord allow us to be good examples – and to show the world what the kingdom of God looks like – by the way we act - by the way we speak - and by the way we treat each other – and the way we stand – We ask that we are useful to you and not be part of the problem – that we can be “liked” like we are supposed to be liked – and we want to do our part – and Lord we hope that we experience with stated in Numbers 6 – a super natural peace - The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Amen.

- Are you living a life better than your sermons?
- Dr. Daniels opening prayer: “If you have breath give God praise – and today our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude and thanksgiving – Lord you have demonstrated your faithfulness to us – you are faithful – and we stand today both convinced and persuaded – faithful you have been and faithful you will be – no matter what it is, it does not change who you are – the best is yet to come – thank you for this wonderful house of worship – this spiritual oasis that provides refreshment to those in need all over the world. Thank you for allowing me to contribute to what is going on in this house – empower your presence in the Holy Spirit and equip me to teach your word with relevance that allows this message to be an in expression of your love for them – allow this message to find people wherever they are in their lives – they know after the word is preached and proclaimed that they are seen and loved - and that you were working all things together for their good and your glory. In Jesus name. Amen.”
- As a natural introvert, I have been focusing this year to be more vocal – **our personalities do not exempt us from the biblical responsibilities to speak life into others – God is never going to call me to be anything more than me – however God will introduce you to a different version of you – God does not call us to be comfortable – He cause us to be obedient.** Allow us to be deeply used by God.
- I miss Ramon Harper (Executive Pastor - Change Church) – the Chunks C. in my life – Yes God restores – but there are some people that He does not replace. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcyreFgkcJU>
- Today I'm thinking about questions in the Bible – and the questions we ask God – It's one thing to have questions for God - and it's another thing for God to ask questions for us.
- And when God asks us a question he's just trying to show us something.
- And it is on that thought, I want to share a few verses from Job with you.
- See Job 42: 1 to 5 – Job is responding to a question that God asked him – see: “42 Then Job replied to the Lord: 2 “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.”

- My prior sermon with you was titled “I Did Not See that Coming.”
- My topic today is “I See It Now.”
- **A Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (theologian, poet, social critic and religious author who is widely considered to be the first existentialist philosopher - Born: May 5, 1813, Copenhagen, Denmark) said this: “Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”**
- **He states that there are some things going on right now that will only make sense in your future.**
- **Just because something doesn’t make sense now does not mean it does not make sense.**
- **It may mean that you have not gotten to the place, space, or season in your life where you make sense out of it – and can anyone of us pause for the cause – do some reflecting in our own life – and reflect objectively – I believe that we have to honestly admit that there were some things in our past that we did not understand – that we did not value then – that did not make sense to us then – that felt damaging then – but when we look back in retrospect, we gain respect for that season – because what I thought was destroying me was the thing that God was using to develop me – and like Paul (as we have read in Phil this month) the prison became the pathway to the palace. Kierkegaard is presenting to us the principle of perspective – and what exactly does that mean? Answer: Where you sit determines what you see – and what you see determines what you do.**
- There are certain things that you can see that I cannot see – not because they don’t exist – it’s just that we are not sitting in the same place.
- And this is why some people become confused, dumbfounded, and flabbergasted when they look at your life - in this season (and during this pandemic) – and you still live your life with a degree of conviction and certainty – while things appear to be crumbling all around us, you appear to be composed and holding it together.
- While some are having pity parties, you’re having praise parties – in the closet – in the car – in the living room – and not some aspect of religious fanaticism by denying the reality of what is going on – and not operating from some type of intellectual inferiority – No – Not that. Where you sit determines what you see – and what you see determines what you do.
- **When we were saved, we were raised in Christ and seated in heavenly places – and we now we see things from a different perspective – and what the enemy meant for evil God is going to work for good – and this means we do not have to wait for the battle to be over - we can praise God right now – Because, where you sit determines what you see – and what you see determines what you do.**
- And this is very important when we find ourselves in Job-like seasons.
- **What is a Job like season?**
- **Answer: The book of Job is in a section of the Bible called wisdom literature – books that God wants us to gain wisdom from – and God wants us to learn something from Job when we are in Job-like seasons. A Job-like season is a season of ambiguity – it is a season where you have to keep advancing but you still don’t have answers – it is a season where do you want answers yet God refuses to provide them – it’s a season where you have to move on without closure – it’s a season where God separates and differentiates what you think you need vs what you actually need – it is Gods way of saying you think you need an answer in order to advance in a season – and while God is committed to supplying all of your needs – if you really need an answer right**

now God would give you one – and because God has not given you one – is in fact an indication that you have the ability to advance without it.

- I want to speak to someone today that feels like they're waiting on some answers – you are trying to make sense out of something that does not make sense – God hasn't given you an answer now - It's because you do not need an answer now – and the best thing we can get from this is that God wants you to move on anyway – for you to thrive anyway.
- **Perhaps you don't need what you think you need - to do what God is calling you to do.**
- **Perhaps God is trying to wean you off of something that you've been co-dependent on – that he gave to you but you now use the gift as a crutch – and you became more confident in the crutch then you do in your Christ.**
- **And God says to us: Let me take that crutch away to reveal to you that sometimes you don't know that I'm all you need – until I put you in a situation where I am all that you've got.**
- **This principle of perspective it is incredibly important – to manage wisely Job-like seasons – to manage the seasons with wisdom – so that anxiety in a Job-like season does not cause us to act impulsively. It's not just about the anxiety – it is the things we do as a result of this anxiety.**
- Recall the story of Abraham and Sarah – despite being aware of the promises of God they acted impulsively – where Abraham hooked-up with a person named Hagar – and they had a child names Ishmael who is the fruit of impulsive behavior. This is what you produce when you get ahead of God.
- Kev side note: “Abraham is also called the father of prophets. Among his children was first-born Ishmael and the second-born was Isaac. From the offspring of Ismael came the prophet, Mohammad, and from the offspring of Isaac came Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, and others.”
- Despite the impulsive behavior by Abraham, he did not what God had in store for him - it's just made the journey more difficult than it had to be.
- And often times we don't understand what God is doing because we don't see what God sees – and I'm not seeing what God is seeing because I'm not sitting where God is sitting – I see to the corner and God sees around the corner – I see to the hill and God sees over the hill – I see you today - God sees tomorrow – I see the crucifixion on the cross and God sees the resurrection – and maybe we feel that God is not behaving the way we think he should be behaving – and maybe we feel that God is not intervening the way we think he should be intervening – because we're looking at the same thing but we don't see the same thing.
- See John 11 – everybody thinks that Lazarus was dead – but Jesus says that he's only asleep.
- Where you sit determines what you see and what you see determines what you will do.
- Maybe the promotion, the transfer, or the contract didn't happen – and this all happened for a reason. And the book of Job is it in an incredible example of this reality.
- See Job 1 for an introduction of Job.
- The narrator of Job is providing an example of someone that should probably have never been in a season of ambiguity and uncertainty – and probably exempt from unfavorable circumstances.
- Yet Job experiences unbelievable heartbreak and loss.
- We often ask the unusual question to God as to why this happened to me and not the person down the street.
- **Job is a powerful picture of ambiguity.**

- **The reality of the world is that trouble rains on the just and unjust – I do not have the rationale for that reality – nor the ability to understand why the worst stuff happens to the best people.**
- Satan claims that God has put a “hedge” around the household of Job.
- **And we probably need to pause and thank God for the protective hedges around us that protected us from things that we did not know about – and we should thank God for all the times that things did not get to us – where the devil could not get to us because of the protective hedge around us.**
- Yes – it is good to praise God for things that we know about – but we should also thank God for the things that God blocked that we did not know about – and thank God for others that benefited from a hedge they were not aware of.
- After Job is confronted with tragedy and natural disaster, Satan then orchestrates some additional things in Job's life to challenge his belief system.
- **The enemy attacks sequentially and cumulatively. Have you not felt in your life when it rains that it pours? Before the enemy tries to take us out he wears us down. The sequential way in which things happen diminish our resolve.**
- **In the mist of all this, we read that Job did not charge God with any wrongdoing.**
- **In Job 2, Satan asks for another round trying to get more access to Job. What Satan took from Job in chapter 1 wasn't what he was really after – after taking all of his stuff he was really after Job's commitment to God.**
- The enemy is equally frustrated with some of you – because Satan has been coming after this or messing with that – infiltrating this and stealing that – but he is still upset because he's not getting the thing he's after – He wants your commitment to God – however you still have a Job-like commitment.
- **Satan then goes after Job's health and then confronts him with pseudo – spiritual friends.**
- **Important point: I don't believe Job's wife was a bad woman - I think she got caretaker's fatigue. Nor should we judge her whole story on a statement. Stress and pressure will make you say things that you do not mean to say to people that you really love.**
- **We are in an age of unprecedented uncertainty – and we have two options. Option 1: to focus on the uncertainty of it or option 2: to focus on the certainty of Him. You can focus on the uncertainty of it or you can lean on what you do know about Him.**
- See Job 42: 1 to 5: 42 Then Job replied to the Lord: 2 “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.
- It is a delay but not a denial.
- No purpose of God can be thwarted.
- **In verse 5 Job says I didn't know that I didn't know you – that I knew morals more than I knew you – I knew ethics more than I knew you – that I knew platitudes and religious scripture more than I knew You – Job says I didn't know you until I knew how much I didn't know. I was complaining about the mess but missing the miracle that I was alive to complain – the miracle of Job's survival.**

- **There's a part of Job's story where we filled two knees and worshiped. Worship is not therapy but it is therapeutic.**
- See Psalms 8:2. "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold"
- **Worship is a defense mechanism – because it reminds me of those things that we need to know during the seasons of uncertainty. God is good - God is for us - and God is faithful.**

Additional study notes:

Additional commentary by William Henry on Romans 8:28: *"The Spirit in the world helps; many rules and promises there are in the word for our help. The Spirit in the heart helps, dwelling in us, working in us, as a Spirit of grace and supplication, especially with respect to the infirmities we are under when we are in a suffering state, when our faith is most apt to fail; for this end the Holy Ghost was poured out. We must not sit still, and expect that the Spirit should do all; when the Spirit goes before us we must bestir ourselves. We cannot without God, and he will not without us. What help? Why, the Spirit itself makes intercession for us, dictates our requests, indites our petitions, draws up our plea for us. Christ intercedes for us in heaven, the Spirit intercedes for us in our hearts; so graciously has God provided for the encouragement of the praying remnant. The Spirit, as an enlightening Spirit, teaches us what to pray for, as a sanctifying Spirit works and excites praying graces, as a comforting Spirit silences our fears, and helps us over all our discouragements. The Holy Spirit is the spring of all our desires and breathings towards God. With groanings that cannot be uttered. The strength and fervency of those desires which the Holy Spirit works are hereby intimated."*

Quote from Dr. Tim Keller in his sermon "A Reason for Living – a recap of John 1" – *"What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that? - If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. It is a person. The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential."*

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold Kushner: *"It may be that Einstein and the Book of Genesis are right. A system left to itself may evolve in the direction of randomness. On the other hand, our world may not be a system left to itself. There may in fact be creative impulses acting on it, the Spirit of God hovering over the dark waters, operating over the course of the millennia to bring order out of the chaos. It may yet come to pass that, as "Friday afternoon" of the world's evolution ticks toward the Great Sabbath which is the End of Days, the impact of random evil will be diminished. Or it may be that God finished His work of creating eons ago, and left the rest to us. Residual chaos, chance, and mischance, things happening for no reason, will continue to be with us, the kind of evil the Milton Steinberg has called "the still un-removed scaffolding of the edifice of God's creativity." In that case, we will simply have to learn to live with it, sustained and comforted by the knowledge that the earthquake and the accident, are not the will of God, but represent that aspect of reality which stands independent of His will, and which angers and saddens God even as it angers and saddens us."*

The Shack by William Young: I (God) am not evil. You (humans) are the ones who embrace fear and pain and power and rights so readily in your relationships. But your choices are also not stronger than my purposes, and I will use every choice you make for the ultimate good and the most loving outcome. . . Broken humans center their lives around things that seem good to them, but that will neither fill them nor free them. Humans are addicted to power, or the illusion of security that power offers. When a disaster happens, those same people will turn against false powers they trusted. In their disappointment, they either become softened toward me or they become bolder in their independence. If you could only see how all this ends and what we will achieve without the violation of the human will – then you would understand. One day you will.”