

**In The Crowd Series
Lessons From Daniel 2
Newport News Campus
10/20/18**

Opening

- new life group...Tuesdays at 6:30pm, meet in Café to start...
- preschool...JJ and Katy
- one more pic...2007!!!!
- Sometimes God stretches us!!!!
- new series...each week...don't stay In The Crowd... (last weeks notes are up)
- PRAY

Introduction

-our introduction text

- Aram (Syria and Israel (northern Kingdom) relative peace
- There is raiding back and forth but not all out war
- Naaman is the commander of Aram's army
- Captures an Israelite girl who is now a servant to his wife
- Naaman has leprosy
- The servant girl tells Naaman's wife about Elisha
- Naaman tells the king
- King sends him with a letter to Israel's king
- Naaman also takes generous amounts of gifts
- Israel's king is distraught, feels it is a prelude to war

-2 Kings 5:8-14

- Look at how close Naaman came to missing his healing!
- Verse 11... "I thought" (Stovall Weems – The Gatekeeper...)
 - My thinking must give way to His wisdom!

- Verse 11... “I expected” (Mike and Heather’s house)
 - My expectations must give way to His plan!
- Verse 12... “Couldn’t I” (The Pathways)
 - My complaints must give way to His commands!

-We must never let our **thinking, our expectations, our complaints** stand in the way of what God wants to do in our lives!

-Did you know that Naaman means “pleasantness” and Jordan means “descending?” Do you see this prophetic picture here? There is a healing that escapes us until we are ready to descend from the pleasantness of our comfort zone, our control! And Naaman washing seven times is a reminder that abandoning our comfort zone isn’t easy...it takes effort!

-When we get to the moments tonight when you will have the opportunity to respond...trust His wisdom, His plan, His commands!

Who Is Your Company?

-Daniel 1:8-16

- Give background
- Implication other Israelite young men ate everything
- How fragile they were, exiled, post battle slaughter!!!
- they didn’t let the crowd become their company

-1 Corinthians 15:33

- “homilia” - companionship, communion, even intercourse
- only use in NT...God does this to give it emphasis!
- but is this a contradiction?

-Romans 10:9-14

- **the only safe way to be a witness to a crowd who don’t follow Jesus is for my life to be tethered to the company of a local church!**

-Matthew 16:17-18 (reference)... **is the crowd you are supposed to reach becoming the company you keep?** (especially teenagers)

-WHO HERE TONIGHT...

Are You Neglecting Your Gift?

-Daniel 1:17

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 (reference)... “each of us”
- just because He gives someone else more doesn’t mean He gave you less!
- If you are too busy...too something...an out of order life!
- Our gifts are relative to our purpose

-Why people neglect their gift

- comparing...my abilities won’t make a difference
- withholding...I need more attention
- shame...you don’t know what I’ve done, what I’m doing!

-Daniel 2:17-18...every gift is made more effective in community!

-What would your Gift Performance Appraisal look like right now?

Band

-(worship team to come up during this final prayer)

-WHO HERE TONIGHT...

Close

-2 Corinthians 10:4-5