



SERMON REFLECTION MATERIAL

16 AUGUST 2026

9 AUGUST SERMON

Winning Under Pressure

PASTOR BOBBY MATHEW

Based on Daniel 2:1-30

Overview

This week's sermon explored how believers can face seemingly impossible situations with faith, wisdom, and trust in God. Drawing from the story of Daniel in Babylon, we were challenged to stop panicking under pressure and instead respond with God-given wisdom, prayer, expectation of divine intervention, and hearts that give God the glory in every breakthrough.

Key Takeaways

1. **Winners respond with wisdom, not panic.** When pressure mounts, God calls us to seek His wisdom rather than react out of fear or emotion.
 2. **Pressure is an invitation to prayer.** Every impossible situation is an opportunity to bring our burdens before God and exchange anxiety for His perfect peace.
 3. **There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.** No situation is beyond God's reach. Divine intervention is not a last resort. It should be the believer's first confidence.
 4. **God deserves all the glory.** Every breakthrough, every answered prayer, and every moment of grace points back to Jesus as the source of all good things.
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Ask yourself

What was/is one situation in your life, past or present, that felt/feels completely impossible from a human perspective?

Reflection Questions

On Responding with Wisdom

1. The sermon drew a distinction between reacting and responding. Reacting is driven by emotion, while responding is guided by wisdom. Can you think of a time when you reacted to a difficult situation out of fear or anxiety rather than pausing to seek God's wisdom? What was the outcome?

2. Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust in God with all our heart and not lean on our own understanding. What does it look like practically to trust God rather than your own instincts when a crisis hits?
3. Isaiah 26:3 promises perfect peace to those whose minds are fixed on God. How do you personally keep your mind stayed on God when circumstances are overwhelming?

On Turning Pressure into Prayer

4. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to be anxious for nothing but to bring everything to God in prayer. Pastor noted that we sometimes bring our burdens to God and then take them back. Do you identify with that tendency? What makes it difficult to leave our burdens at the feet of Jesus?
5. Daniel did not pray alone - he gathered his friends and they sought God together. What is the value of praying with others when you are facing an impossible situation? How does your cell group or other believers in church function as that kind of community for you?
6. The sermon made a distinction between treating God like a therapist and bringing Him a genuine request. What does it mean to you to truly cast your cares on God as described in 1 Peter 5:7?

On Expecting Divine Intervention

7. Pastor said, "But there is a God in heaven" should always be on our lips when things seem impossible. How does this declaration change the way you approach difficult situations? Is this something that comes naturally to you, or is it a discipline you have to cultivate?
8. The sermon pointed out that divine intervention does not always look the way we expect. Sometimes God removes the mountain; sometimes He helps us climb it. Sometimes He opens a door; sometimes He closes one. Can you recall any instance from your own life where God's intervention came in an unexpected form?
9. 2 Chronicles 20:12 records Jehoshaphat saying, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." Is there a current situation in your life where this is the most honest prayer you can offer? What would it mean to fix your eyes on God in that situation?

On Giving God the Glory

10. Daniel was careful to redirect the king's attention away from himself and toward God after the dream was revealed. Why do you think it is tempting to take credit - even quietly and privately - for breakthroughs that God has brought about in our lives?

11. James 1:17 reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from above. How does regularly acknowledging God as the source of every good thing in your life shape your attitude, your generosity, and your worship?
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Extension

Take a few more minutes:

- Write down one situation in your life right now that feels impossible.
 - Next to it, write the phrase: "But there is a God in heaven."
 - Then write one specific way you can bring that situation to God in prayer this week, and one person you can ask to agree with you in faith.
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Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One or More:

- **Respond, do not react.** The next time a stressful situation arises, pause before responding. Take sixty seconds to quietly ask God for wisdom before you speak or act.
 - **Turn pressure into prayer.** Identify the top one or two pressures you are carrying right now. Set aside a specific time this week to bring them before God in prayer, and then intentionally leave them at His feet rather than picking them back up.
 - **Pray with someone.** Reach out to a trusted believer this week and ask them to pray with you over a specific impossible situation. Do not face it alone.
 - **Declare it out loud.** When doubt or fear rises this week, speak these words aloud: "But there is a God in heaven." Let that declaration anchor your faith in the moment.
 - **Give God the glory.** Think of a recent breakthrough or blessing in your life, no matter how small. Find a way to publicly or privately acknowledge God as the source, whether in conversation, in your journal, or in worship.
 - **Come hungry this weekend.** The Celebrate Grace services are happening this weekend - commit to attending with an expectant heart, ready to receive from God's Word and presence.
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Memory Verse for the Week

Daniel 2:28 -- There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.

Write it down. Carry it with you. Declare it when the impossible presses in.