1 NOVEMBER SERMON

Disturbed but not Defeated

PASTOR MATHEW MATHEWS

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

This Cell Material is meant to help believers go beyond hearing the sermon on Sunday to reflecting on how to apply it to their everyday lives so the Word is a lamp unto their feet and a light for their path.

The questions cover different aspects of the sermon, so choose the ones that are most relevant to your cell members. Or you could also choose to focus on one aspect of the sermon for a deeper discussion.

Short on time for preparation?
We've got you. We've included a *Quick Guide* at the end, with one question from each segment of the sermon to help you get the conservation going.

May the Lord guide your discussions and bring revelation and growth to everyone!

"DISTURBED BUT NOT DEFEATED" | DANIEL 8

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Hold On When Truth Is Cast Down**
   The little horn in Daniel 8 cast truth to the ground and prospered. This mirrors the pressure believers face today to compromise what Scripture teaches. God's word is settled forever, and though it may be mocked or trampled in a season, truth will ultimately prevail.
2. **Seek Understanding, Not Fear**
   Daniel did not suppress his questions or pretend everything was fine. He sought understanding, and God sent Gabriel to help him make sense of what he had seen. Believers are invited to bring their confusion and anxiety to God rather than allowing fear to define their responses.
3. **Get Up and Keep Serving**
   Daniel fainted and was sick for days after his vision. The Bible does not hide the weight of what he experienced. But afterward, he rose and went about the king's business. There is always an "afterward" for the believer. Obedience today must not be cancelled by uncertainty about tomorrow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening

1. When you hear the phrase "disturbed but not defeated," what situation in your own life comes to mind? Take a moment to share with the group if you are comfortable doing so.
2. Have you ever watched someone who does not follow God seem to prosper while you were doing your best to live rightly? How did that affect your faith?

Point 1: Hold On When Truth Is Cast Down

3. The sermon described how Antiochus Epiphanes violated the temple, cast truth to the ground, and yet prospered. The question raised was: why do the wicked prosper? How do you personally wrestle with that question?
4. Pastor Bobby said: "God's word will survive the test of time. People can trample. They might mock God's revelation. God's word is still truth." What is one area of your life where you are feeling pressure to compromise what Scripture teaches?
5. What practical steps help you stay anchored to God's word when the culture around you pressures you against it?

Point 2: Seek Understanding, Not Fear

6. Daniel did not pretend to have all the answers. He sought understanding and God sent Gabriel to help him stand. When you are confused or afraid, what is your first instinct - pray and seek God, or react and spiral?
7. Pastor Bobby shared a personal story about his son Ben's surgeries and a moment when he felt God seemed absent. He described how God gave him peace through an unexpected means. How has God ever spoken to you in an unexpected or quiet way during a difficult season?
8. The sermon listed several ways God speaks to his people: through Scripture, preaching, cell groups, prayer, and even through people who do not know God. Which of these has been most meaningful to you personally, and why?

Point 3: Get Up and Keep Serving

9. Daniel 8:27 says that after being sick for days, Daniel arose and went about the king's business. What does it look like practically for you to "go about the king's business" in your current season, even when you feel weighed down?
10. Pastor Bobby said: "Do not allow tomorrow's uncertainty to cancel today's obedience." Is there something God has called you to do that you have been putting off because of fear or confusion about the future? What would it look like to take one step of obedience this week?
11. The sermon ended with a call to look at the cross. When life is overwhelming, how does reflecting on what Jesus did on the cross reorient your perspective?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to commit to before your next group meeting:

- **Read Daniel 8 in full** and write down one thing that stands out to you about how Daniel responded to what he experienced.
- **Identify one area of truth** where you have been tempted to compromise. Write it down, pray over it, and share it with a trusted friend or group member who can hold you accountable.
- **Replace a fear response with a prayer response.** When anxiety rises this week, instead of reacting immediately, pause and pray: "God, give me understanding. Help me to see this the way you see it."
- **Do the next thing.** Like Daniel returning to the king's business, identify one act of service or obedience you have been avoiding and commit to doing it this week, regardless of how you feel.
- **Memorize Matthew 6:33** and recite it whenever uncertainty about the future begins to crowd out your obedience in the present.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- For courage to hold on to God's truth even when it is costly or unpopular
- For wisdom and understanding in areas where confusion or fear has taken root
- For strength to rise and keep serving, even in seasons of grief, pain, or exhaustion
- For one another's specific needs shared during the discussion

QUICK GUIDE

OPENING

Have you ever watched someone who does not follow God seem to prosper while you were doing your best to live rightly? How did that affect your faith?

Point 1: Hold on when truth is cast down

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Point 2: Seek Understanding, Not Fear

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APPLICATION CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

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