Sermon Notes Jan 11, 2026

Isaiah 55 6 Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now
while he is near. 7 Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very
thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the LORD that he may have
mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

Luke 8 4 One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large
crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: 5 "A farmer went
out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on
a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. 6 Other seed fell
among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for
lack of moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and
choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This
seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had
been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears
to hear should listen and understand."

11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. 12 The
seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message,
only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and
prevent them from believing and being saved. 13 The seeds on the rocky
soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But
since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall
away when they face temptation. 14 The seeds that fell among the thorns
represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is
crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so
they never grow into maturity. 15 And the seeds that fell on the good soil
represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it,
and patiently produce a huge harvest.

Daniel 6 1 Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120
provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. 2
The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise

the high officers and protect the king's interests. 3 Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire. 4 Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. 5 So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion. 6 So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! 7 We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. 8 And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." 9 So King Darius signed the law. 10 But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. 11 Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. 12 So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." 13 Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

16 So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you." 17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. 18 Then

the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night. 19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. 20 When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Daniel answered, "Long live the king! 22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." 23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. 24 Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den. 25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world:

"Peace and prosperity to you! 26 "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. 27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."
28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Action Steps

- I know that every one of you have 'heard the message of Jesus' – but are you ALL IN on your commitment to Him?
- Have you been hearing but not listening and understanding what God is saying to you? Application!
- What needs to change to make you more consistent in your engagement with your spiritual disciplines in opening to God?
- What is the report of your walk with God by those that are closest to you?