



Sunday 23rd October 2016

Danny Hunt

Confronting Cynicism (Ezekiel 12:21-28)

In this day and age it's easy to be cynical. TV advertisements include fine print that disappears quickly. We can find it difficult to trust in companies we buy from and political leaders who fail to confront the problems we see.

In Ezekiel chapter 12, we read of the cynicism that the people of Israel hold towards God:

"The days go by and every vision comes to nothing" (v22)

There are also times when looking at our own news coverage and our own city we ask questions like:

Can I trust God? Is He going to make a difference? Or, how can we make a fresh start?

1. What sorts of events and actions do you see around you that make you question God's presence in the world?
2. How do you keep cynicism behind you, and focus on God in these times?

Drawing on the story of Ezekiel, Danny described three ways that we can confront cynicism. They are to 1) focus on God's TRUTH 2) focus on God's TIME, rather than our own 3) and to be willing to TRUST Him.

Focus on God's Truth

In this day and age, it seems that anyone can interpret the world in a way that is 'truthful' to them.

Yet we know that only God's truth can be trusted.





3. What do these verses remind us about God's truth:
 - Malachi 3: 1-6
 - John 1:14
 - John 8:31-36
 - John 14:6

In the passage in Ezekiel, we read about a people who have lost faith in God's word and God's Promises.

4. What is an example of God's truth that you need to remind yourself of today? Focus on God's Time

In this passage in Ezekiel, people have begun to take God for granted. Re-read verses 27 and 28.

5. What do these passages tell us about how Ezekiel's words were received by Israel?
6. How do you feel when you read God's promises about the future? Do you respond the same way?

Danny reminded us that we often forget life is more like a marathon than a sprint. That God's timing is not our timing and we often want things to change quickly, to get to the finish line or cross things off our 'to-do list'.

7. When have you been guilty of wanting things in your time, rather than God's? What was the outcome in the end?

In Hebrews 11, we are reminded of the many faithful examples of God's people who faithfully followed God's timing and not their own. You may even like to read the passage together.

Trust God

Ezekiel 12: 21: "The word of the Lord came to me"

To confront cynicism requires us to trust God. To listen to him and even to hear a new word





from
Him.

8. Can you think of a time when you have received a word from the Lord?

Trusting God is an active pursuit. Danny told the story of a body builder whose muscles were used only to pose. We are called believers. It is an active pursuit.

9. How are you exercising your 'spiritual muscles'?

If we are to confront cynicism God asks us to be willing to humble ourselves and to trust him. As you close, read Matthew 18:3 and ask that God will help you to trust Him, His timing and His truth.

