What If

Justin Mock · Daniel 3:1–18

INTRODUCTION

- During the process of selling our house, there were a lot of what if questions for me anyway.
- We were told effectively when she was born that we would have maybe a couple of weeks with her, and that was about it.
- What if we hope and we pray and we trust and we do all the things that we can do and the inevitable happens anyway.

1 What If Questions Come From Worry and Fear

- These kinds of questions don't come from courage or faith.
- Those questions come from worry. Those questions come from fear.
- They come from a mind and a heart that isn't focused where it should be.
- The fact is, fear and worry do not come from God.

2 Jesus Says, Do Not Be Anxious

Matthew 6:25–34

- Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life. What you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body what you will put on.
- And which of you, by being anxious, can add a single hour to his span of life?
- That doesn't sound like a suggestion.
- He equates being anxious about these things to someone who lacks faith. That's a tough pill to swallow.
- When you worry about the cares of the world, when you ask yourself, what if about the future? And you have anxiety about things that you cannot control, you are acting as someone who does not have God.

3 We Are Called to Be People of Self-Control

1 Corinthians 9:25; Galatians 5:23; James 4:7–8

- For those of us this morning who are Christians, we are called to be people of self-control.
- When we worry about the things of this world, the things of this life, the what ifs that may happen, we are not exhibiting self-control.
- One of the fruits of the Spirit is gentleness, self-control.
- Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

4 Even If: Faith Before the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1–18

- Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O King.
- But even if he doesn't, be it known to you, O King, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.
- This is what faith looks like.
- When we ask, what if this or what if that, we are not trusting that God is able.
- Because even if comes from faith and courage.

5 Be Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1:6–9; 2 Timothy 1:6–7

- Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
- How do we defeat those thoughts of worry and those what if questions that might bombard us in our times of trouble? It is by being strong and courageous.
- Be careful to do according to what God has commanded you.
- For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control.

THE CHALLENGE

So with courage, strength, and faith, we should change our words and our hearts from what if to even if.

MY NOTES