What's Your Orientation?

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INTRODUCTION

- So orientation is the relative physical position or direction of something.
- Muslims in their worship periods and in their prayers orient themselves toward Mecca.
- This seeing these arrows pointing to Mecca made me think about what our orientation would be.

1 Why Daniel Oriented Himself Toward Jerusalem

Daniel 10:1

- What I want to talk about is why might Daniel have oriented himself toward Jerusalem.
- But was Daniel looking toward Jerusalem because God's there? I say no. His presence is gone from that location.
- Daniel had to dig it out just like the rest of us do. He had to study from the book of Jeremiah.
- For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.
- I think Daniel pointed toward Jerusalem to help him remember, recollect, and believe in the promises of God.

2 What Orienting Toward Jerusalem Accomplished for Daniel

- When Daniel went back to his room to pray, he knew he was violating the king's command, and it didn't stop him from doing it.
- In orienting himself toward Jerusalem, I think it helped focus his vision on the right priorities.
- I think focusing toward Jerusalem reduced the distractions to his thinking.
- And then finally, I think it also emphasizes dependence on God.

3 Orienting Ourselves to Pray in a Time of Difficulty

- When we're in a difficult situation, do our prayers change when the threats are bigger than we are?
- I think for ourselves, we learn from Him about orienting ourselves to pray in a time of difficulty.
- We should be desperate for prayer all the time.
- I think we need to make sure that the environment we're in when we pray is one that's conducive to thoughts and our communication to God.

4 Oriented Toward Things That Are Above

Colossians 3:1–16

- I need to be oriented toward things above, not toward a place necessarily like Mecca or Jerusalem or this church building.

- If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- Set your mind on things that are above, not on things on the earth.
- I need to orient my direction. I need to chart my course beyond this world for the next.
- We need to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and in me, and let the word of Christ dwell in me. That's my orientation.

5 Make Jesus Our Compass

- In the book of Hebrews, we need to make Jesus our compass.
- Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.
- Looking to Jesus. He's our example. He's who we should orient ourselves to be like.
- Let us then draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find help in the time of need.
- He suffered what we suffer. And he did it to the glory of God.

THE CHALLENGE

How are we orienteering through our lives? What are we pointed toward? What direction are we heading? Where is our loyalty? Where is our allegiance? Where is our faith?

MY NOTES