**Going deeper in Daniel 9:1-11, 19**

**INTRODUCTION**

Daniel has seen two visions showing that the Lord is in charge of all of history. Daniel is overwhelmed by all of this. This passage is what Daniel does next in response to all of it.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

1 Darius, the son of Ahasuerus, who was a Mede by descent, was made king over the Babylonian kingdom 2 In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, was mediating on the Scriptures and understood that according to the Word of God from the prophet Jeremiah, that Jerusalem would lie in ruins for seventy years. 3 Then I turned my face toward the Lord God and pleaded with Him by prayer, fasting, wearing sackcloth, and kneeling in the ashes. 4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed, “O Lord, the great and awe-inspiring God, who keeps your covenantal commitments and shows mercy to all who love Him and hold on to His commandments. 5 We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and rebelled, departing from your laws and commands for life. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets who spoke in your name to our kings, princes, ancestors, and all the people of the earth. 7 O Lord, you are the righteous one, but this day we are clothed in shame – the people of Judah, those camped in Jerusalem, and all of Israel, near and far. 8 O Lord, shame belongs to our kings, princes, ancestors and all of us because we have sinned against you. 9 The Lord, our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have revolted against Him. 10 All of Israel has pulled away from your law and turned our backs and refused to listen to your voice; 11 therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the law of Moses, the servant of God has been poured out on us because we sinned against you.

19 O Lord please listen and forgive! O Lord listen and take action! Don’t hesitate. For the sake of your reputation, for your city, for your people who represent you.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What are the spiritual practices of Daniel in verses 1 – 5?

2. What are the characteristics of God that are important to Daniel in this passage?

3. Notice how Daniel includes himself in confessing the sin of Israel. What does that tell you about Daniel? When you pray to the Lord for our country and ask for forgiveness do you make it a “we” statement?

4. According to verse 6 who has God spoken to? Why is it all-encompassing?

5. When has there been a time when you felt “clothed” in shame? What was that like? What did you need from the Lord in that time?

6. In verse 19 what reasons did Daniel give that God should forgive? Is that what you ask when you ask the Lord for forgiveness?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Take some time praising the Lord for His characteristics or attributes that are important to you.

\*Take some time to ask the Lord for forgiveness for yourself, others, and our nation.

\*Ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit daily so you can be His faithful representative.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Daniel takes seriously reading and obeying the Scriptures. He takes seriously the call to live a life that reflects the Lord of All. He takes seriously his need for forgiveness. He owns the sin of all His people. He deeply trusts in God’s love, righteousness, and forgiveness. Will you in your day to day life this week?