

# *Dare to Be Like Daniel*

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I am unsure from whom I originally adapted these thoughts.  
I am more sure of the date: 1999-2000.

# *A Person God Can Use*

- The Bible provides accounts of individuals who served God and are worthy examples for us to follow
- One such person is Daniel, a person God was able to use in a powerful way
- His dedicated service to God became evident to all (see 1 Tim. 4:15)

# ***Stand Up and Stand Out***

- Daniel's stand in his allegiance to God caused him to stand out among the children of Israel (1:3-6)
- God made Daniel better than all the wise men of Babylon (1:17-20)
- God promoted Daniel over all of Babylon and all the wise men (2:48)
- Daniel received similar power over the Medo-Persian empire (6:1-3, 28)

# *Stand Firm*

- How was Daniel able to reach these positions of power and influence without compromising his position as a godly man?
- The Book of Daniel reveals that we too can be successful without selling our souls

First, we notice that even as a teenager...

# ***Daniel: a Person of PURPOSE***

- "DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART" (1:8)
- A teenager in a strange land, Daniel was immediately faced with a challenge to violate God's law by eating the king's food
- Despite his youth and the obvious pressures to conform, Daniel "purposed in his heart" to uphold the law of God, no matter the cost

# *Daniel: a Person of PURPOSE*

- Because Daniel purposed to put God first, God granted Daniel favor with others (1:9)
  - Exactly how God did this is not explained, but it happened in the case of Joseph also
    - Gen 39:1-4; 21-23
    - By putting God first, God blessed Joseph in such a way that favorably impressed others

# ***We Need to Be People of PURPOSE***

- No one respects a person who will not take a stand—a person with no real conviction
- A strong sense of purpose often builds respect and admiration within others
- We need to make our purpose to seek God's will and fulfill it in our lives, no matter the circumstances or consequences (Mt. 6:33)

# ***Dare to Be Like Daniel!***

- Will I "dare to be like Daniel" and be a person with a purpose like he had?
- No matter how young or old, now is the time to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"!
- Throughout his life, Daniel not only had a strong sense of purpose, but . . .

# ***Daniel: a Person of PRINCIPLE***

- He refused to compromise his convictions:
  - As a young man, by refusing to eat the king's meat or drink his wine (1:8)
  - As an old man, by refusing Belshazzar's gifts (5:13-17)
  - Under the threat of persecution, by refusing to obey Darius' decree (6:10)

# ***Admiration for a Person of PRINCIPLE***

- Outwardly, some may ridicule a person of principle but inwardly they wish they had the same intestinal fortitude
- When someone is needed who can be trusted and can accomplish a task, the person for the job is a person of principle
- God can use individuals who stand by their principles and by their words (Ps. 15:1-5)

# ***We Need to Be People of PRINCIPLE***

- Our world really needs people with principle
- Those who "dare to be like Daniel" and demonstrate by example the value of being led by "principle" rather than by "price" are highly valued by God and people
- Having purpose and principle is not all: another element is needed for true success
- That element can be seen in Daniel—

# ***Daniel: a Person of PURITY***

- His opponents could not find any fault
  - Faultless in his business affairs (6:1-4)
  - This would help explain his rise to positions of great responsibility and power
  - His purity in business was related to:
    - His purpose to please God
    - His principle of dependability

# ***We Need to Be People of PURITY***

- Whether young or old
  - 1 Tim. 4:12; 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:22; Titus 2:4-8
- People who maintain purity in their dealings with others are often given positions of great responsibility and privilege because they can be trusted

# ***Daniel: a Person of Purpose, Principle, Purity and . . .***

- Daniel was a person of purpose, principle, and purity (how the world needs more like him!)
- Daniel had to develop the discipline that helped him maintain his purpose, principle and purity. . .

# *Daniel: a Person of PRAYER*

- Daniel's prayer life (6:10)
  - Knelt three times: *humility*
  - Prayed: *dependence on God*
  - Gave thanks: humbly grateful
    - Daniel's enemies were “grumbly hateful”

# ***Daniel: a Person of PRAYER***

- Daniel's practice of prayer
  - "as was his custom since early days"
  - Because Daniel was willing to kneel continually before God, God was able to make Daniel stand

# ***We Need to Be People of PRAYER***

- Christians (those who follow Christ) are people of prayer
  - Col. 4:2
  - 1 Thess. 5:17-18
  - Jas. 5:16

# ***We Need to Be People of PRAYER***

- The discipline of prayer will help us to be people of purpose, principle and purity
- Will we seriously consider being people of prayer?
  - We should focus more on taking time to pray in genuine humility
  - When was the last time you actually kneeled in prayer?

# ***When We Dare to Be Like Daniel . . .***

- We will become people of
  - PURPOSE
  - PRINCIPLE
  - PURITY
  - PRAYER

# *Memory Verse Review*

## *(Isaiah—Daniel)*

- Is. 55:6—“Seek the LORD...”
- Jer. 10:23—“O LORD, I know...”
- Lam. 3:40-41—“Let us search out...”
- Ezek. 18:20a—“The soul...”
- Dan. 4:25c—“. . . the Most High...”