

This weekend Pastor Ted shared with us a part two of Jesus being the better exile. What really was hammered and needed to be hammered is that we are called to holiness.

The Jews at this time were to be captured and the Babylonians were to assimilate them into a Babylonian culture that was so contrary to who God called the Jews to be. The question was posed if Babylon could take the Jerusalem out of the Jews? Will they be faithful in this time of exile or will they succumb to the culture that is around them?!

This thought was posed Sunday; Faithfulness in Exile is a call to Personal Holiness. There were also three keys to this for us all:

- 1) holiness is the HARDER way
- 2) holiness is the HUMBLE way
- 3) holiness is the HONORED way

So how can we all be holy, and be a true and honest light in this world you ask? Let's chat!

1 - How is it possible to have faithfulness during our exile or persecution? What does it look like to be holy? Can we work on being holy? (Philippians 2:12-15, James 1:22)

2 - Holiness is the harder way. What did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do that was different than, from what we can tell, the rest of the Jews had done while taken captive? What are things that we can look at in our lives that God maybe calling us to to make us different than those around us? Ted's comment strikes well here; Holiness isn't about not doing bad things, but connecting ourselves to the right things. Our resolve starts long before the trials ever start

3 - 1Peter 1:14-16 calls us to be holy and in 17 tells us to live it out with reverent fear! This leads us to Holiness being the Humble way. Read Daniel 1:8, what did Daniel do once he resolved not to eat the kings food? What's it like to stand firm in our belief, but to do it humbly and with respect in our lives right now? What does it mean to be "winsome"?

4 - Holiness is the honored way. Daniel 1:15 say about their being after their 10 day fast? How did God bless Daniel specifically from here on out? What do you hope your legacy will be? (Be honest)

Last thoughts; What is a secret thing that we need to give over to God to be able to be holy? Remember friends what Ted said Sunday, "small compromise leads to significant corruption"