

Doing hard things well Pt 2

Daniel 1:8-21

- At one point in Daniel's life he had it all, he came from a well to do family **V3** only the children of nobles the king wanted, he was gifted **V4** says having wisdom and knowledge with an ability to catch on quickly, also he was a handsome young man **V4**, no blemishes or scars to speak of, so outwardly he was set for success. All that came crashing down when he was taken from his family and his country, stripped of his culture and language, and made to start completely over in a foreign land.
- What would most people do? Adapt and survive time, people would do whatever it took for them to avoid any more suffering or hardship wouldn't they? That's speaking of adults, what about children, and kids who are used to having it easy, how would they respond? We know look around our nation, compared to most countries our kids are considered rich, from elementary to high school everyone has internet, Nike's, Jordans, Adidas, phone, iPad, no matter what their family's financial state.
- What if you take all of that from them, how would they respond? They would go nuts, for the one thing they don't possess is fortitude, standards, you can almost put a guarantee on this that whoever comes along after their stuff is gone and offers it back plus more will have their undivided attention and loyalty, that's what we see here. The Babylonians are counting on the kids unconditional surrender of who they are, to what they want them to be, in exchange for comfort and convenience.

V8-21

- The king had already changed their language, changed their diet, and changed their names, and in doing so the goal is to steal their identities. Satan does this as well, he wants us to forget what God has said about you, and brainwash you into his accepting what he says is true. An example of this is the changing of names.
- Daniel who's name means "**God is my judge**", Hananiah is "**God is gracious**" Mishaël is "**Who is like God**" and Azariah is "**God is help**" every time these boys heard their names called it reminded them of the character of God and Who He is and how He thinks of them. Belteshazzar means bels prince, Shadrach means command of Aku the moon god, Meshach who is like shach the Babylonian goddess Ishtar, and abed-nego, servant of nego or nabu, the god of fire.

- The name of the True and Living God was replaced by the names of the false gods of Babylon, but would we expect unbelievers to do anything else? **Philip 2:9-11** is why the enemy attacks the name of Jesus with cursing, blasphemy, for it's the only name in which a person can be saved, but if I give it another meaning. **V5** says they were to get three years of training to get The Lord and His teaching out of them and replace it with their false beliefs, and then they will test them on how well they've adapted.
- **V8** Daniel "**Purposed**" the Hebrew word means to wholly determine, in his heart that he would not defile himself with the Kings delicacies. That's what the enemy of our souls is offering us today delicacies, they look, smell good, even taste and feel good, but its defiling, it will ruin what God intended for you. But we have to make a conscious decision that we will resist his temptations of easy, convenience, comfort
- **V9-10** once Daniel makes the choice to serve and trust God no matter what, The Lord gives him supernatural favor with those in authority as he requests foods and drink that is not on the kings menu for the young men. The chief eunuch tells Daniel that although he likes him he doesn't want to risk his and his families life for him.
- **V11-16** this is what happens when you're sold out for The Lord, as even your friends around you will be impacted. Notice we don't read anywhere that Daniel consulted his buddies on any of these decisions and yet they're they are being included in the Veggi and water diet. **2Cor 10:4-6** after Paul speaks of spiritual warfare he says once were in a place of personal obedience then we can affect others to do the same.
- **Ps 34:8** don't ever be afraid to trust God to put us in positions where only He can deliver, Daniel was so confident in The Lord that he says if we look bad after eating only Veggi's and water we will do as you say. **Jam 3:17** speaks of having wisdom that comes from above, its first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
- **V17-21** God honors them for their faith in Him, and it's a witness to the boys superiors, and when they stand before king Nebuchadnezzar he couldn't find a finer group of boys than Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. But I don't won't you to miss this as its only after their faithfulness are they seen as extraordinary to Nebuchadnezzar, this is why **Jam 1:22** is such an important verse for the believer, as the first part > **being a doer**, protects us from the last part > **deceiving ourselves**.