

Living a Godly life in an ungodly world

Dan 1:1-21

V1-8

- Daniel is around **16yrs** old when his world is turned upside down he is taken by a strange people into a strange land away from everything familiar. Up to this point Daniel has had it pretty good most of his life
 1. He came from a well to do family **V3-** only the children of nobles
 2. He was handsome **V4-** only the good looking (no acne)
 3. He was gifted **V4-** he had wisdom and an ability to catch on quick
- They choose him to teach their language and culture to, now you may say here goes that good fortune for Daniel again right? Wrong! This has warning and danger flashing all over it why? Who can tell me where the danger in this is?
- The Babylonians wanted to brainwash these kids into thinking that where they are was better than where there from, and in order to do three things
 1. Change their language- how they communicate with each other and God
 2. Change their diet- what they eat, what they digest
 3. Change their names- who they are, their identities,
- Satan also wants to steal our identities and change what God has said about you. How does the world attempt to brainwash Christians into this way of thinking? The way we **talk**, what are we **listening** to everyday what is bombarding our ears.
- What about our **diet** not necessarily **natural food** but **spiritual** what are you taking in TV, movies, is it truth or lies, then change your name, you no longer want to be called Christian but spiritual until you forget who you are, you may ask how can a believer forget who he is **Jam 1:23-24-** says it's very possible.
- Daniel does **3** things that all of us must if we are to live Godly in ungodly times
 1. **He fortifies himself spiritually-** he purposed in his heart- he says I won't defile it I will keep it pure.
 2. **He fortifies himself physically-** I won't eat the king's delicacies, now you know this was the best of the best pastries, meats, fish, burritos
 3. **He fortifies himself mentally-** he says don't give me wine or anything that could altar my thinking

V9-21

- Daniel speaks not only for himself but puts his friends out there too, when you are sold out for the Lord like this even your friends will be impacted > **2 Cor 10:4-6** once were in a place of obedience then we can impact others to do the same.

- **Ps 34:8-10** tell us to trust God and don't be afraid to be in positions where only God can deliver, here Daniel is so confident in the Lord he says if we look bad after only eating vegetables and water we will do as you say.
- Because of their faithfulness **V17-** God allows them to gain wisdom and skill without losing their faith to the world. Daniel was a teenager placed in an impossible situation, he has every reason to do the wrong thing and use the excuse it was not my fault, I was separated from my family, my country was taken over, and I was bought here against my will, so I had to survive.
- But we don't read of Daniel giving any of those excuses, he simply continues to stay true to God. **Question:** What excuses are you using to disobey God, and according to this story do you really think any of them are valid?
- Only after their faithfulness are they seen as extraordinary to even the King himself. Folks if God shows us favor and He is for us then who can be against us and prevail! This is why **Jam 1:22** is so important for the believer as the first part > being a **doer**, protects you from the last part **deceiving yourselves**.
- We first must trust that God is able and then live out these promises by not making excuses. Now is the time to go before God but not to make up a bunch of excuses as to why we can't be sold out to Him, we need to be like these young men trusting that if we are faithful then God will mold and shape us into the men and women He desires.