



Thriving IN EXILE

LIVING A VIBRANT FAITH IN A POST CHRISTIAN CULTURE.

5 Habits To Thrive In Exile

Week 2

Key Text - Daniel 1:8-21

8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." 11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." 14 So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. 16 So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Other Texts

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Proverbs 2:1-10

2 My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
3 yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
4 if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
8 guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.
9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
10 for wisdom will come into your heart,

and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Ephesians 4:11-14

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Proverbs 27:17

17 Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Other Quotes

Practice 1

To Form a Resilient Identity, Experience Intimacy with Jesus.

Experiencing Jesus means clearing religious clutter for closeness with and joy in Christ. Personal: prayer, devotional reading of scripture, personal confession. All ways in which we attach ourselves to the vine. John 15:4-5

Practice 2

In a Complex and Anxious Age, Develop the Muscles of Cultural Discernment. Exercising cultural discernment means taking part in a robust learning community under the authority of the Bible in order to wisely navigate an accelerated, complex culture.

Life is more complex in digital Babylon. It's not just unlimited access to content. It's the range of ideas and the fact that so many are untethered to orthodox ways of perceiving the world. There is more to think about, more to worry about, more to concern yourself with—and that's just on your Facebook feed on

Tuesday morning. Previously unimaginable complexity is creating an epidemic of anxiety in our homes and heads that is ratcheted up in the hearts of the next generation. - Kinnaman, David; Matlock, Mark; Hawkins, Aly. Faith for Exiles (p. 74).

Practice 3

When Isolation and Mistrust Are the Norms, Forge Meaningful, Intergenerational Relationships Building meaningful relationships means being devoted to fellow believers we want to be around and become.

What does meeting together look like?

corporate gathering, micro gathering in homes, meeting regularly with another believer to pray and read scripture. All of these are equally valid ways of gathering together. The important thing is not how or where, but that we gather together.

Practice 4 - To Ground and Motivate an Ambitious Generation, Train for Vocational Discipleship

Vocational discipleship means knowing and living God's calling, especially in the arena of work, and right-sizing our ambitions to God's purposes.

Eph 2:10 - Be the church where you live work and play.

Practice 5 - Curb Entitlement and Self-Centered Tendencies by Engaging in Countercultural Mission

Engaging in countercultural mission means living as a faithful presence by trusting God's power and living differently from cultural norms.

This last point is the heart of the book of Daniel. Daniel lives in exile in a way that blesses the culture in which God has placed him, but remains faithful to God in how he does that. When he can stand with he stands with, when he needs to stand against he stands against! But he does it in love and respect even to the point that he is willing to put himself at personal risk.

As we continue to walk through this series we will look at how we can live a counter culture faith the way that Daniel did, the way the disciples did. A counter culture faith that seeks to love God and love our neighbor.

Reflection Questions

1. Which practice resonated the most with you?
2. Which practice do you want to add to your rhythm.
3. How does this gathering help you take your faith into your everyday life?