

# 10/25/20 Message

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Part of Anything Goes

October 24, 2020

## Message: Culture's Greatest Need

### Series: Anything Goes

Recap: We're in the 5th message in our ***Anything Goes*** series which is taken from the Old Testament book of Daniel. As a review, Babylon (King Nebuchadnezzar) attacked Judah, and took control of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar stole precious items from the Temple of God in Jerusalem. He had his chief of staff seek and find several young men (intelligent, good looking, strong) to be trained to work in royal service for the king. Daniel was one of those men. They spent three years training, learning the Babylonian language and literature, and were given new Babylonian names. In essence, Nebuchadnezzar was trying to change their identity. In the Babylonian (anything goes) culture, Daniel resisted the King's instructions, specifically when those instructions went against the Godly lifestyle Daniel lived.

#### Message 1

Culture's Greatest Impact (Confused Identities)

- What you believe is what you live out

#### Message 2

Culture's Greatest Test (Who or What You Worship)

- Worship is your response to what matters most

#### Message 3

Culture's Greatest Question (Who is in Charge of Me)

- Live your life caring about what God thinks

#### Message 4

Culture's Greatest Culprit (Unfocused and Busy Lives)

- Your life on earth is temporary, don't waste it

## Culture's Greatest Need

- TRUTH and GRACE

*In an anything goes culture, truth and grace are replaced with gruff and tough. It's more about bullying and getting your own way. It's saying - I'm right and you're wrong! It's drawing lines in the sand. And I believe there are times for that, but it should be few and far between, not something we do daily. But when anything goes, our daily lives are filled with what separates us, not what unites us!*

—Pastor Chad

### ***Daniel 6:1-9 (NLT)***

1 Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province.

2 The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests.

3 Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.

4 Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.

5 So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."

6 So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius!

7 We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions.

8 And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."

9 So King Darius signed the law.

10 But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

11 Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.

12 So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."

13 Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

14 Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament.

15 In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed."

16 So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel.

18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night.

19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den.

20 When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "Long live the king!

22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

24 Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with

their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: “Peace and prosperity to you!

26 “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end.

27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Once again – truth and grace wins! Daniel has been a part of bringing pagan kings to a life changing relationship with God.

## **Principles for Living it Out**

*You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.*

*—J.S. Knox*

You can never live out “truth” and “grace” unless you realize these two things:

- This life is NOT about ME
- My purpose is to GIVE people HOPE

This was written about Jesus:

*Instead of separating Himself from His culture, He made an impact on it without compromising His beliefs.*

*—Chris Hodges*

- To live out truth and grace, you should CONNECT

– Connecting is about forming RELATIONSHIPS

Someone once said – connect before you correct.

*That sounds good, but I'll take it a step further - I'm not sure we're the ones that need to do the correcting. Who am I to correct anyone? I mean, if you look in my life, I guarantee you'll find many, and I mean many areas that need correcting. Who am I to correct anyone? I'd much rather hold to the premise that it's my job to accept and love unconditionally, show others the love of Jesus, teach them about Jesus, and let Him do the correcting.*

—Pastor Chad

*Unfortunately, some Christians think their purpose is to argue. They feel compelled to get in people's faces, tell them what they're doing wrong, and demand that they change. The way they share their faith - if we can even call it that - is dogmatic, angry, and downright offensive. No wonder it turns people off; it turns me off! And I suspect it turns God off.*

—Chris Hodges

You don't form a relationship with someone who doesn't like you - it just doesn't work that way.

### **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)**

...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

- To live out truth and grace, you should INFLUENCE

- Influence is about your WITNESS

Two notes regarding influence:

- In conversation, listen more than you talk.
- In life, instead of talking about it, do it.

Daniel did this!

*Too many Christians isolate themselves to the point they don't connect, and they don't influence. Their witness to the world is nothing more than conceited selfishness. But Chad, they are protecting themselves, so they won't be influenced by the world. You ready for this truth? God is*

*more powerful than the world or any of its influences! If you are connected to Jesus - and you follow only Him, then you can be an influencer and you can change the world!*

—Pastor Chad

### **Acts 4:13 (NCV)**

The leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak, and they understood that these men had no special training or education. So they were amazed. Then they realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

### **Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)**

...If you speak good words rather than worthless ones, you will be my spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you!

Our mission changes once we accept and follow Jesus. Too often, Christians get “stuck” on our old mission and don’t move on to the actual mission that is ours to accomplish.

- Before Jesus: Our mission is to **find** God and **allow** God to change us.
- Once we accept and follow Jesus: Our mission is to **connect** and reveal God to others, and to **influence** their lives.

## **Show the World Truth and Grace**

### **Jude 1:22-23 (NLT)**

22 And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.  
23 Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

- Keep your standards high and your grace deep
  - don’t cross the line, but it’s ok to stand on one side and talk to the other
- Accept people without approving of their behavior
  - accept, love, forgive, focus on the word ‘unconditional’
- In conversation, never let your tone get contentious

- don't let it turn into a debate
- Lead others to truth
  - teach, don't preach... walk with them, don't point and send
- Show others what hope looks like
  - live a hope filled life, encourage others, show them what it's like

Does your life reflect, demonstrate, and reveal "truth and grace" to the world around you?