

INTEGRITY

You Are Beyond Ordinary Pt 3

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Daniel

Criteria God uses: "God does not look at the things the world looks at." (1 Samuel 16:7)

- a. **A pure heart** – "God, all that I am and all that I have is available to you!"
- b. **A different perspective** – Seeing the obstacles as opportunities.
- c. **Integrity** – "I have made up my mind – I will not compromise!"

Daniel 1

(v. 1) *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.*

(v. 2) *And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.*

(v. 3) *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility –*

(v. 4) *...young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.*

(v. 5) *The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.*

(v. 6) *Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.*

(v. 7) *The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.*

(v. 8) *But Daniel **resolved** not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.*

Daniel 3

(v. 16) *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.*

(v. 17) *If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.*

(v. 18) *But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

(v. 28) *Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in Him and*

defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

(v. 29) Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, **for no other god can save in this way.**"

(v. 30) Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

God is looking for people who are willing to say,

- **"I have made up my mind! I cannot compromise my integrity!"**

WHAT do you want to see God use you to do?

WHO do you want to see God use you to reach?

Your potential to be used by God hinges on your willingness

- **to make up your mind**
- **and develop a passion to obey Him!**