

DR. MARCUS ELLISON

WHY SETTLE FOR AVERAGE

WHEN EXCELLENCE
IS AN OPTION

- Excellence
- Very Good
- Satisfactory
- Average

A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

PART IX

Key Verse

Daniel 6:1-3 (NKJV)

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, **to be over the whole kingdom**; 2 and over these, **three governors**, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, **so that the king would suffer no loss**. 3 Then this **DANIEL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF** above the governors and satraps, **BECAUSE AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WAS IN HIM**; and the king gave thought to **SETTING HIM OVER THE WHOLE REALM**.

Outline Of The Study

- *What Is Excellence*
- *Excellence Is A Choice*
- *Excellence Will Face Challenges*
 - *Excellence Requires Courage*
- *Excellence Overcomes The Culture*
 - *Excellence Is Contagious*
 - *Excellence Must Be Cultivated*
- *Excellence Requires Commitment*
- *Excellence Refuses To Compromise*
 - *Excellence Is Continuous*
- *Excellence Will Be Compensated*

Week One....

EXCELLENCE IS GENERATED BY A SPIRIT WITHIN A PERSON

*Excellence Is **Not An Activity**....IT IS AN ATTITUDE ~*

Steve Jobs

*Be A Yardstick Of Quality... Some People Aren't Accustomed To An Environment
Where Excellence Is Expected*

*The Motive of **WORLDLY EXCELLENCE** Is To **Please People***

THE MOTIVE** of **GODLY EXCELLENCE** is to **BRING HONOR AND GLORY TO GOD.

We Were Created In The Image Of God..... Therefore, We All Have The Potential To Be Excellent

Because Of The Name... Child Of God ~ There Is An Expectation To Be Excellent

We Must Cultivate A Spirit To Be Excellent

Week Two... Excellence Is A Choice

I AM EXCELLENT.... Not Because I Have To Be.... But Because I CHOOSE TO BE

Control The Choices... You Can Control

DON'T ALLOW FEAR TO ALTER YOUR CHOICE OF EXCELLENCE

THE WORD IS FOUNDATIONAL TO CHOOSING EXCELLENCE

A GODLY HOME IS FOUNDATIONAL TO CHOOSING EXCELLENCE

THERE IS A COST TO CHOOSING EXCELLENCE

Week Three....

Operating In Excellence Will Face Some Challenges...

#1 ~ Lack Of Confidence or Level of Self-Confidence

#2 ~ Competition Is With Self Not Others

#3 ~ Complacency and Comfort Will Become A Challenge

Week Four....

Excellence Requires Courage

Courage To Trust God Without Conforming

Courage To Trust What God Said Despite What I See

Courage To Continue Despite The Critics And Consequences

Week Five....

Excellence Overcomes The Culture

Take Time To Know And Understand The Culture

Study The System of the Culture... But Stand On The Truth

You May Not Escape The Culture...But You Can Excel In It

Week Six....

If Your Spirit Is Going To Be Contagious...

It Must Be Verbal and Visible

It Must Have Some Victorious Evidence

If Your Spirit Is Going To Be Contagious...

There Has To Be Some Involvement

It's Hard To Catch Someone's Spirit When You Receive INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT

When You Receive A Spirit That Is Contagious...

Your Cannot Just Take The Elevation... Without The Experiences

HOW IS YOUR SPIRIT AFFECTING YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Last Week....

What Are You Doing To Cultivate A Spirit Of Excellence?

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR EXPECTATION FOR SUPERIOR RESULTS?

DO YOU HAVE THE DESIRE...

BUT AREN'T WILLING TO DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE?

*ARE YOU SO FOCUSED ON THE STAGE
THAT YOU CAN'T WORK BEHIND THE SCENE?*

DON'T ALLOW THE CONFLICT TO STOP YOUR COMMITMENT!!!

If You Have The Desire

If You Are Willing To Be Developed

God Will Give You The Platform For It To Be Demonstrated

Tonight....

Excellence Will Be Compensated

Excellence Is Continuous

Excellence Will Be Compensated

The Cambridge Dictionary defines “**Compensate**” as *to AWARD for services Rendered*

If services are rendered, there is an Expectation of Compensation...

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God *must believe that He is,* and that **HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.**

When You Render Services TO GOD ~ God Will COMPENSATE His Servants

The Problem is many people **DESIRE COMPENSATION** without services rendered...

“What Shall I Render Unto The Lord For All His Benefits Toward Me....”

1 Samuel 26:23 (NIV)

23 The Lord **rewards** every man **FOR HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITHFULNESS.**

If You Are FAITHFUL Over A Few Things... I Will Make You Rulers Over Much....

Many People Look Forward To Only Heavenly Rewards... and Overlook The Blessings Here On Earth

James 1:12 (NLT)

12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation.

Afterward they will receive **THE CROWN OF LIFE** that God has promised to those who love him.

Mark 10:28-30 (NLT)

28 Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. 29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and **I ASSURE YOU** that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, *for my sake and for the Good News,* 30 will receive **NOW** in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. *And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.*

Excellence Will Be Compensated

In Chapter 1, He takes a Stand For God ~ That Others Can See

Daniel 1:8, 12-13 (NLT)

8 But Daniel was **determined not to defile himself** by eating the food and wine given to them **BY THE KING**.

12 “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said.

13 “At the end of the ten days, **see how we look** compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision **in light of what you see.**”

In Chapter 2, His Gift Brought Him Before The King Who Would Be A Vessel of Compensation

Daniel 1:17 (NLT)

17 God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. **And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.**

Daniel 2:24-28 (NLT)

24 Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel said to him, “Don’t kill the wise men. **TAKE ME TO THE KING, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.**” 25

Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, “I have found **one of the captives from Judah** who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!” 26 The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), “Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?”

27 Daniel replied, “There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king’s secret. 28

But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

YOU WILL BE REWARDED BY GOD IN THE AREA OF YOUR GIFT ~ YOU WILL PAID BY MAN FOR YOUR TALENT

Excellence Will Be Compensated

His Gift Brought Him Before The King Who Would Be A Vessel of Compensation

Biblical Example

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (NLT)

1 Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign,
I WAS SERVING THE KING HIS WINE. I had never before appeared sad in his presence.

2 So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, 3 but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? **For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.**"

4 **THE KING ASKED, "WELL, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?"** WITH A PRAYER TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN,
5 I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, **send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.**" 6 The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" After I told him how long I would be gone, **THE KING AGREED TO MY REQUEST.**

7 I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

8 And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself."

And the king granted these requests, BECAUSE THE GRACIOUS HAND OF GOD WAS ON ME.

He operated with A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE and was put in POSITION TO EXPERIENCE THE FAVOR OF GOD

When You Get The Position ~ Don't Forget Your Purpose

Excellence Will Be Compensated

When You Are Faithful ~ You Don't Chase Compensation ~ It Finds You While Operating In Purpose

1 Samuel 17:17-23 (NIV)

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them.

19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.

21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other.

22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers.

23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it.

Commitment To Excellence Meets Opportunity For Compensation

1 Samuel 17:25 (NLT)

25 The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!"

FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS!!!!

Excellence Will Be Compensated

God Gives Compensation To Those Who Give Him The Credit

Daniel 2:46-49 (NLT)

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. 47 The king said to Daniel, “Truly, **YOUR GOD IS THE GREATEST OF GODS**, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret.”

48 **THEN THE KING APPOINTED DANIEL TO A HIGH POSITION AND GAVE HIM MANY VALUABLE GIFTS. HE MADE DANIEL RULER OVER THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF BABYLON, AS WELL AS CHIEF OVER ALL HIS WISE MEN.**

49 **AT DANIEL’S REQUEST, THE KING APPOINTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO TO BE IN CHARGE OF ALL THE AFFAIRS OF THE PROVINCE OF BABYLON, WHILE DANIEL REMAINED IN THE KING’S COURT.**

Who Gave Daniel The Promotion?

Psalms 75:6-7 (KJV)

6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

7 **BUT GOD IS THE JUDGE: HE PUTS DOWN ONE AND SETS UP ANOTHER.**

1 Peter 5:6 (KJV)

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that **HE MAY EXALT YOU IN DUE TIME:**

Proverbs 21:1 (NASB)

1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; **HE TURNS IT WHEREVER HE WISHES.**

Excellence Will Be Compensated

God Gives Compensation To Those Who Don't Compromise

Daniel 3:16-18 (NASB)

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and **HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF YOUR HAND, O KING.**

18 "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

*Many People Have Chosen To Receive The Rewards Of Compromise From Man
And Forfeit The Compensation From God*

Daniel 3:28-30 (NLT)

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "**Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!** He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word **against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!"

30 Then the king **PROMOTED** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego **TO EVEN HIGHER POSITIONS** in the province of Babylon.
Standing With Daniel in Chapter 2 got them some good positions...

BUT WHEN GOD SAW THEIR FAITHFULNESS.... THEY RECEIVED EVEN HIGHER POSITIONS

"Promoted" ~ Means to **Cause To Prosper** ~~~

Excellence Will Be Compensated

“Promoted” ~ Means to Cause To Prosper ~~~

Deuteronomy 30:9-10 (ESV)

9 THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL MAKE YOU ABUNDANTLY PROSPEROUS in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. FOR THE LORD WILL AGAIN TAKE DELIGHT IN PROSPERING YOU, as he took delight in your fathers, 10 when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the Lord your God WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL.

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. FOR THEN YOU WILL MAKE YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS, and THEN YOU WILL HAVE GOOD SUCCESS.

Excellence Will Be Compensated

Don't Allow The Compensation, To Make You Forget The Assignment

DANIEL 5:13-17 (ESV)

13 **THEN DANIEL WAS BROUGHT IN BEFORE THE KING.** The king answered and said to Daniel,

“You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah.

14 **I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.** 15 Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter.

16 **But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems.** Now **IF YOU CAN** read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, **YOU SHALL BE CLOTHED WITH PURPLE AND HAVE A CHAIN OF GOLD AROUND YOUR NECK AND SHALL BE THE THIRD RULER IN THE KINGDOM.**”

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “**Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.**”

**PRIZES, PROSPERITY, AND POSITIONS
VS.
PURPOSE**

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

Excellence Will Be Compensated

Compensation Comes With A Cost

Daniel 6:1-5 (ESV)

*1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom;
2 and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, **BECAUSE AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WAS IN HIM.** And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.
4 Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”*

Daniel Was Put In The Lion's Den ~ Are You Willing To Pay This Type Of Price In Exchange For Promotion

Daniel 6:25-28 (ESV)

*25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.
27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”
28 So this Daniel **PROSPERED** during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

Excellence Is Continuous

Daniel 2:46 (NLT) ~ 603 B.C.

46 Then **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR** threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him.

Daniel 5:29 (NLT) ~ 539 BC

29 Then at **BELSHAZZAR'S COMMAND**, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 6:1-2 (NLT) ~ 538 BC

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.

Daniel 6:28 (NLT) ~ 530 BC

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and **THE REIGN OF CYRUS THE PERSIAN**.

Regardless Of Who Is In Command..... God Compensates Excellence

In Conclusion

Your Gift Brings You Before People Who Become A Vessel of Compensation

YOU WILL BE REWARDED BY GOD IN THE AREA OF YOUR GIFT ~ YOU WILL PAID BY MAN FOR YOUR TALENT

When You Get The Position ~ Don't Forget Your Purpose

God Gives Compensation To Those Who Give Him The Credit

God Gives Compensation To Those Who Don't Compromise

God's Compensation Comes With A Cost

Regardless Of Who Is In Command..... God Compensates Excellence

Final Thought....

What's Keeping You From Operating In Excellence?

Who Is Keeping You From Operating In Excellence?

MT. OLIVE B.C. OF GREENWOOD

C E L E B R A T E S

144th CHURCH *Anniversary*

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Deuteronomy 7:9

Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations...

2:30 PM



Guest Speaker

PASTOR CRAIG B. COLLIER, SR
GALILEE B.C.
SHREVEPORT, LA



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

9500 GREENWOOD-SPRINGRIDGE RD

Stewardship Seed

\$144

Goal Of 140 People

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