

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 03/10/21



Daniel 1

Martin Segal

On Sunday we began our new sermon series exploring the book of Daniel. Martin kicked things off speaking from chapter 1.

Scripture

Daniel 1

Overview

In exploring the first chapter of Daniel we focused in on 2 key dynamics - The Challenge and The Choice.

The Challenge

The book of Daniel is written at a very dark moment in Israel's history. We see it begins with King Nebuchadnezzar besieging the city of Judah. Not only that but the Lord gave the King of Judah into his hands, vessels from the house of God were taken back to Babylon as were royalty, nobles, wise and impressive young Israelites. Those left behind had to deal with the desolation left, but the book focuses on those taken into exile. We see they have to deal with not only the challenge of the destruction of their home and hopes but also of being taken into a new culture. We face similar challenges today, feeling besieged emotionally, physically or spiritually, facing cultural pressure to accept their way of living and thinking and having to work through hurt, disappointment and confusion.

The Choice

Yet we also found in the first chapter of Daniel a choice. Will we be defined by our experience, disappointment and culture or will we be a people of faith who trust in God's word? We see Daniel model to us a choice of faith resolving to not be defiled, standing firm in the face of 'small compromise' that enabled him to stand firm at numerous moments in his life. We saw how out of all those taken into exile, only 4 were able to walk in faithfulness - and yet the biggest thing we see in this chapter and throughout the whole book is that God is faithful. To both the faithful and the faithless he remains faithful. Our confidence as we navigate the highs and lows of life is in the steadfastness of our God.

Questions

1. What are the challenges you are facing at the moment?
2. What reaction does verse 2 stir up in you and why? "The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hands."
3. Where do you need to be like Daniel and resolve to live for God and not compromise?
4. How does the faithfulness of God impact your week ahead?