



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Daniel and the Lion's Den

Passage: Daniel 1:1-4

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction:

Before Babylon conquered Jerusalem, God warned His people through prophets like Isaiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah. But Judah ignored the warnings. Idolatry, injustice, and empty religion filled the land, so judgment came in three waves over nineteen years. In the first, Babylon took the temple treasures and the best young men—including Daniel. Surrounded by compromise, Daniel chose to stand firm.

"Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..." (Daniel 1:8)

God honored Daniel's faith at the king's table—but that was only the beginning. When Nebuchadnezzar demanded an interpretation for his troubling dream, Daniel prayed, and God revealed it. A pagan king bowed before a faithful exile.

"The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret." (Daniel 2:47)

From teen exile to faithful elder, Daniel's life was marked by courage and integrity. And in one of his greatest tests, we find three powerful lessons still relevant today.



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I. Faithfulness Doesn't Require Favorable Circumstances

Daniel was taken from his home as a teenager. He lost his culture, language, and freedom—but he never lost his faith.

You don't need perfect surroundings to live a holy life. You can walk with God in the classroom, in the workplace, under pressure, and in exile.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." (Philippians 2:15–16)

II. Conviction Must Be Pre-Decided, Not Situational

Convictions are not created in crisis—they are revealed in crisis.

If you don't decide ahead of time to honor God, the pressure of the moment will decide for you.

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

III. A Faithful Life Leaves a Powerful Legacy

Daniel didn't seek influence, but God gave him influence because he lived with integrity.

The world may not understand your faith—but they will notice your faithfulness.



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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Conclusion: God is not looking for talent. He is not impressed with titles. He is looking for faithfulness. Whether you're 16 or 86, in a palace or a pit, surrounded by lions or applause—don't choose comfort. Don't choose compromise. Choose courage. Faithfulness doesn't start with a miracle. It starts with a window, a prayer, and a God who never fails. Be like Daniel.



Bethany Baptist Church • 4402 40th Street • Lubbock, TX 79414
806.799.2464 • churchstillworks.org • Dan Preston, Pastor