

Daniel Chapter 3 – 27 Jan 2013

Exercise: A book, a paper (worth \$4000 at Wal-Mart), MRE, a movie, a board game.

Four volunteers: watch me place the items, now go out of the room. Have them come and take whatever item they want.

What was valuable to them?

This study will shown us two ways to get rid of the idols in our lives...and the benefits of doing so!

1. Vs 1

- a. Did he build this to rebut his dream of the statue of many metals?

2. Vs 2-7

- a. Vs 6 – ‘worshippeth’ – This isn’t just a political event but a religious one.

3. Vs 8-12

- a. OT shadows of Eschatology (End Times Events)
 - i. All thru the OT is pictures of things that Christ fulfills
 - 1. Read Luke24:27
 - ii. Daniel Chapter 1 – Is a picture of a believer living in an unbelieving world, not defiling himself.
 - iii. Daniel Chapter 2 – The 4 world-ruling Empires are a picture of the unbelieving world from beginning to end.

iv. Daniel Chapter 3 – Daniel is a picture of the believer being raptured, while the 3 Jewish men are a picture of going thru the Tribulation.

1. Daniel is mysteriously absent from this chapter and then comes right back in chapter 4.
2. Babylon itself is the Bible's example of men's religious system. (Read Rev 17 & 18 esp 17:5)
3. This golden image is a picture of the image of the Anti-Christ that will be set up during the Tribulation (Read Rev 13:11-15)
 - a. The False Prophet is the religious arm of the Anti-Christ.

v. This trend will continue into future chapters of Daniel.

b. The 1st way to get rid of idols in our lives is to devalue them.

Do we worship idols today?

i. How about some definitions

1. Worship – Worth-ship – to ascribe worth or value.
2. Idol – a vanity, a thing of naught or nothing.
3. Is there any lasting value in a thing of nothing?
 - a. What is it giving back to us, nothing.
4. An idol doesn't have to be a bad thing...it could be a neutral thing that has too much priority in my life.

ii. What are some idols in our lives that are sinful?

1. Gossip, unforgiving spirit, thinking of self first.
2. What is it giving back to us, nothing.

- iii. What are some idols in our lives that are sinful if prioritized wrongly?
 - 1. TV, video games, our money.
 - a. For example, you'll know money is an idol if you're not giving at least 10% of it back to God.
 - 2. What do video games give back to us, nothing.
- iv. Our god is whoever/whatever opinion that matters the most (value) to us. The master passion of our lives.
 - 1. Where do we spend our time and money?
 - 2. When we have to choose between two things, what wins?
 - a. Do we watch the football game or come to church that night?
 - b. When we have just enough time to do devotions with the family or play a game, which do we do?
 - c. You can't make God and anything else both the most important thing in your life (Read Matt 6:24 – can't serve God and mammon)
 - d. Talk about the exercise that we did at the beginning?
- v. **Again, the 1st way to rid ourselves of idols is to devalue them.**
- vi. What hinders use from serving God with our full ability today? (Give the hand-out that I created)

4. Vs 13-15

- a. Vs 14 - Be clear before taking actions.

i. He gave them a 2nd chance to be clear about their intentions before passing judgment.

ii. We should learn from this.

b. Don't live be circumstance (Read Deut 13:13-15)

i. If we lived according to the culture around us, we'd be back and forth all the time, living a life of inconsistency.

ii. Which path to choose? God's path regardless of situation.

5. Vs 16-18

a. **The 2nd way to get rid of idols in our lives is to magnify and value God and His attributes.**

i. Their belief or trust in God wasn't just, "I believe God is real", but they believed ALL about who He is!!

1. He is sovereign over my situation!

2. His imperial power is strong and available to deliver me!

3. His truth & righteousness matters in my life!

4. He's the centerpiece to civilization!

ii. Short-term vs Long-term

1. He's ABLE to deliver us from this present circumstance, if He so chooses. (Short-term)

2. He WILL deliver us one day. (Read Rev 13:10)

iii. Even facing death they valued God's opinion greater.

1. How easy it would be to rationalize their way out of this one.

a. "Oh, God knows our heart; we can just lie to the king to get out of this." Really?

2. When things seem impossible for people to figure out are some of the only times that God gets all the glory.
 - a. Don't shy away from these situations.

6. Vs 19-25

- a. Oh, the benefits of not serving idols, but serving the living God!
 - i. Vs 25 – “Loose” – We've been loosed from sin and shame!
 1. Gal 5:1, II Pet 2:19, Heb 2:15
 - ii. Vs 25 – “Walking in the midst of the fire” – We can be productive and give glory to God thru hard situations!
 1. Luk 19:13, Col 4:5
 - iii. Vs 25 – “Having no hurt” – Though the outward man perish, the inward man is being renewed day by day!
 1. II Cor 4:11-16
 - iv. Vs 25 – We get to experience God living with us!

7. Vs 26-28

- a. The king gathered all these powerful people together for this, but it backfired and ended up showing God's power.
 - i. The most impossible situations are sometimes the greatest opportunities for us to just yield and let God shine!

8. Vs 29-30

- a. So in this chapter God taught us to devalue idols and to magnify Him to reap His benefits.
- b. Maybe you say, “This is me, I have served idols instead of choosing God”. Enough of me (Dan) talking...I want you to hear it straight from God...to you. Read Deut 4:25-35

- i. Isa 43:2 – When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee, for I am the Lord thy God!