



PASTOR
GLEN BARNES

HOW TO THRIVE IN THE LIONS DEN
JUNE 25TH, 2023

Two Common Approaches of Christians Living in an Ungodly Culture:

1. _____ to the culture. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: *Most kings of Israel and Judah***

2. _____ and _____ from the culture. **Biblical Example: *Pharisees, Jonah***

A Third Way:

Standing out as _____
even in the culture.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: *Daniel, Jesus, The Early Church*

Daniel 6 and the Story of Daniel's Habits Before the Lions Den

“ We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a *habit*.”

~ ARISTOTLE

“ You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

~ MATTHEW 5:14-16 (NIV)

“ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.”

~ DANIEL 6:1-3 (NIV)

The Habit of _____ and _____ .

“ Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

~ COLOSSIANS 3:17a (NIV)

The Habit of caring about and _____ his Babylonian bosses.

“ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.⁵ Finally these men said, 'We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.'”

~ DANIEL 6:4-5 (NIV)

“ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”

~ DANIEL 6:10 (NIV)

The Habit of _____ .

Daniel could have responded with Panic, Pride, or Political Power. Instead he responds with prayer.

“ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, ‘May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!’”

~ DANIEL 6:16 (NIV)

The Habit of _____ for the outcome.

“ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?’

²¹ Daniel answered, ‘May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.’”

~ DANIEL 6:17-22 (NIV)

The Habit of _____ .

“ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴ At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.”

~ DANIEL 6:23-24 (NIV)

The Habit of Seeing God’s Power _____ People’s Lives.

“ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: ‘May you prosper greatly!

²⁶ “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

~ DANIEL 6:25-27 (NIV)

The Testimony of a Second Babylonian King Converted to Daniel’s God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |    

- 1 - Of the two common ways to respond to ungodly culture which is most natural for you?
- 2 - Read Daniel 6:1-24. Does anything stand out as new and different from how you expected this familiar story to go?
- 3 - Review the list of habits Pastor Glen said were a part of Daniel’s regular way of life. Are there any other character traits of Daniel that you would include after rereading the story?
- 4 - Which of Daniel’s habits are most natural for you these days? Which of the habits do you need to work on?
- 5 - Read Daniel 6:25-27. How would you characterize King Darius’ view and relationship with God. Read Daniel 4:34-35. How would you characterize King Nebuchadnezzar’s view and relationship with God?
- 6 - Prayer: Who is someone that like these Babylonian Kings you would like to see have their eyes opened to who God really is? How can you reach out this week?

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