

THE DANIEL DILEMMA

How To Stand Firm & Love Well In A Culture Of Compromise

LESSON 4 – WHO’S THE BOSS

[King Nebuchadnezzar] “he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” ³¹ Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. ³² You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox.

Daniel 4:30-32a (NIV)

PRIDE

1. The problem with **PRIDE**.

- The sin of pride usually **LEADS** to either humility or humiliation.

*“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” **Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)***

- We either **LEARN** to let go of our self-importance and give our desires to God, or we suffer the consequences and get what we think we wanted (even as we lose what matters most).

Quote: Pride is a “gateway” sin that offers an open doorway for our enemy to drop in and tell us just how great we are and how we really don’t need God. It whispers, “Religion is just a crutch for all those weak people! You’re strong; you’re better than that. You’re in control of your life.” These lies embolden us to question God and to start thinking he doesn’t know what he’s doing, to start believing we know more than God knows. **By: Chris Hodges**

*“Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am.” **Mark 8:34 (MSG)***

*“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.” **Mark 8:35 (NLT)***

2. What God is **LOOKING** for in us.

*“So, here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” **Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)***

- How can you **FOCUS** on “less of me and more of God”?

*“Then if my people will humble themselves and pray, and search for me, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear them from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land.” **2 Chronicles 7:14 (TLB)***

3. Jesus’ **EXAMPLE** in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” **Matthew 26:36-39 (NIV)***

- When you come before God in prayer, you begin to **ACKNOWLEDGE** your own limitations and God’s infinite power.
- Prayer forces you to **SURRENDER** to your Creator and trust his plan for your life. Consistently talking with God builds relationship and results in an even deeper, stronger trust in him. This kind of prayer communication grows into a constant lifeline--not just “SOS” when things fall apart.

4. Three attitudes toward **LORDSHIP**

1) I want what **I WANT**.

I really don’t want your will, I want you to bless my will.

*“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”” **James 4:13-15 (NIV)***

2) I want what God **WANTS IF....**

So, I want what God wants, but it’s on a conditional level.

*“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.” **Mark 10:21-22 (NIV)***

3) I want what God wants – **PERIOD**.

*“The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” **1 John 2:17 NIV 1984***