

THE DANIEL DILEMMA

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

LESSON 5 – DIVIDED, DISTRACTED, AND DISTURBED

²⁴⁻²⁵ And so God sent those fingers to write this message: ‘Mene,’ ‘Mene,’ ‘Tekel,’ ‘Parsin.’ ²⁶ “This is what it means: “Mene means ‘numbered’—God has numbered the days of your reign, and they are ended.

²⁷ “Tekel means ‘weighed’—you have been weighed in God’s balances and have failed the test.

²⁸ “Parsin means ‘divided’—your kingdom will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Daniel 5:24-28 (TLB)

- When we realize that our **DAY**s are numbered, then we realize the need to make them count. Only following God and living for him provides the kind of deep significance we crave and were created to enjoy.

USE OUR TIME EFFECTIVELY

- **TIME** is your most precious resource.

It is the only thing you cannot get more of no matter what you do.

Jesus lived a brief time here on earth, 33 yrs. His public ministry was only three years long and He was incredibly effective and had a lot to give. Why did he have so much to give? Because so much had been put back inside of him.

1. We need **SOMETHING** to give.

- If you **LIVE** a life where more is going out than what is coming in, you will have nothing to give.

“So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Acts 3:5-6 (NIV)

God has called us to be effective, to be an influence into our culture. But this can only happen if we have a time plan where things are coming inside of us.

2. The **FOUR** ways Jesus grew.

1) **WISDOM**

2) **STATURE**

3) FAVOR WITH **GOD**

4) FAVOR WITH MAN

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2:52 (NIV)

3. The four ways we should GROW.

1) MENTALLY

- Let us make time for personal GROWTH. It is important to be a lifelong learner.

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

2) PHYSICALLY

- Make time to take care of YOURSELF.

3) RELATIONALLY

- Make time for life-giving RELATIONSHIPS.

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

4) SPIRITUALLY

- MEDITATE on God’s Word. Do not just read it; reflect on it. Think about it in your mind. Apply it to yourself.

“James Packer said, meditation as “an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God.”

“Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16 (ESV)

4. Everything flows out of our RELATIONSHIP with God.

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13 (NIV)