

THE DANIEL DILEMMA

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

LESSON 6 – WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

Jesus said to his followers, “Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.
Mark 16:15 (NCV)

During the seventy years of Daniel's captivity, he shared his faith with each king he served. Throughout the four different leaderships, Daniel gained influence and pointed others to God, all without compromising his beliefs.

Jesus commanded his followers to “go everywhere in the world and tell the Good News to everyone”. Notice that Jesus didn't tell us to go everywhere in the world and try to convince people we're right or antagonize them into submission. Instead, he gave us the task – the *opportunity* – help others know God the way we know him: as a generous and trustworthy Father who loves his children.

HOW DO WE SEE THINGS?

1. The CALL of all Christians.

We are Christ's Ambassadors. God's making his appeal to planet Earth through us.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

2. An “EVIL EYE” versus a “GOOD EYE”.

- In Judaism the evil eye meant a person who was a scrooge, someone who was stingy.
The good eye was referred to someone who was benevolent.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:22-24 (NIV)

- The eye is the KEY to the whole thing.

3. Three ways we “SEE CLEARLY”.

We must see a lot of things in a different kind of way if we're going to be effective.

1) See **OURSELVES** clearly.

We must understand our role in this world. We cannot be marked by who the world identified us as. We must see ourselves the way God sees us, and to see ourselves making a difference.

God called Moses to lead the people into the promise land. *“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” Exodus 3:11 (NIV)*

“Moses answered, ‘What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you?’” Exodus 4:1 (NIV)

“Moses said to the LORD, ‘Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.’” Exodus 4:10 (NIV)

2) See other **PEOPLE** clearly.

One of the most exciting parts of the Christian life is not seeing things on the surface, but as they present themselves to us. We need to look beyond what we see and see what they're going through. And even the people who irritate us, it's good for us to look past a person's faults. (Hurting people hurt people.) Instead of seeing them as someone who's victimizing you, see them as a victim as well.

3) See **ETERNITY** clearly.

We're just passing through. *As 1 Chronicles 29:15 says, “We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace” (NLT).* We are built for another place.

Jesus says, *“I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35b (NIV).*

Jesus was always seeing life and people through the lens of eternity. And constantly reminding us that life in heaven is a lot longer than the life here. *“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” Matthew 6:20 (NIV)*

4) How do we make the ultimate difference to influence **ETERNITY**?

May God let us see the world around us, and not be blind to it. We don't need to have spiritual near-sightedness where we're only concerned about ourselves.

Question: If God answered all your prayers, every prayer that you would pray, would it change the world or just change you?