

## Fearless

### Introduction:

Do you ever feel like you are in the midst of a cultural meltdown?

**TODAY:** A game plan for not only surviving but also thriving—in the midst of an increasingly godless culture.

- Most people think of Daniel as an adventure story for kids.
  - *A lion's den; A fiery furnace*
- But Daniel is actually a primer for adults.
  - *How to thrive in a godless environment*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** (NIV) *<sup>16</sup>All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

## Daniel's Story: Chapter 1

### How bad was it?

#### 1) The Nation (**Revelation 18:1-24**)

- Babylon was the personification of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2) The King

- Raided God's temple and publicly \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3) The Culture

- The core curriculum emphasized \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4) Daniel

- He was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and had his name changed to honor \_\_\_\_\_.
- Then he was forced to study the \_\_\_\_\_ and serve in the administration of an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ king.

### The Secrets to Daniel's Success:

#### 1) Hope and Optimism

- Even in Babylon, \_\_\_\_\_!

**Romans 13:1-2** (NIV) *<sup>1</sup>Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*

- Panic and despair are never \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the end, we win! (**Revelation**)
- The Gates of Hell — Gates are defensive.

**Matthew 16:18** (NIV) *...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

## 2) Humility

- Everyone deserves \_\_\_\_\_, even \_\_\_\_\_!
  - Daniel didn't just have humility. He showed humility.
  - Incredibly respectful—even after the lion's den! (**Daniel 1:8-14, 2:26-7, 6:19-22**)
- How God wants us to respond:  
**2 Timothy 2:24-26** (NIV) *<sup>24</sup>The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup>with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*
- Show proper respect to everyone. (**1 Peter 2:17**)
- No one likes or listens to people who don't like to listen to them!

## 3) Wisdom

- There's a big difference between what we don't \_\_\_\_\_ and what God \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It's amazing what Daniel didn't fight over. (*pagan education, pagan name, serving a godless king...*)
- Pick your battles!
  - If asked to sin, stand firm! (**Proverbs 9:10**)
  - But if it's not a sin, let it go! Non-believers need Jesus, not our moral code. (**1 Corinthians 5:9-13**)

***The Darker it gets the more power the tiniest of lights become!***

## Questions to Consider:

1. What did you learn about Daniel that you hadn't realized before?
2. In what ways do you relate to Daniel in the world he experienced?
3. Which stood out to you most – hope, humility, or wisdom? What caught your attention about it?
4. What challenges your thinking and perspective from the sermon?
5. How will you respond to what God is showing you?