Dare To Be Like Daniel!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 28th, 2021

Text: Daniel 1:8; 6:10; 9:23

### Intro

1. The Scriptures tell us of many godly men and women who are good examples.
2. One such individual was Daniel, who is an example of faith and courage.
   1. He started out preeminent among the children of Israel – Dan. 1:3-6
   2. He gained preeminence among the wise men of Babylon – Dan. 1:17-20
   3. He was given power over all Babylon – Dan. 2:48-49; 5:29
   4. He was given similar power over the Medo-Persian empire – Dan. 6:1-3; 28
   5. He was highly esteemed by God – Dan. 9:23
   6. Daniel is an example of how to have success without compromise! – Dare to be like Daniel!
3. How was Daniel able to reach these positions of power and influence without compromising his righteousness?
   1. He was a Jew in a pagan polytheistic system of government.
   2. The very government prophesied by Isaiah, Habakkuk & Jeremiah to execute judgment against Judah, a vicious, godless people: The Chaldeans (Babylonians).
4. How did he rise to such power and remain unspotted by the world around him?
5. The book of Daniel reveals his secrets to a successful life without selling one’s soul!

#### Purpose

* 1. Daniel was a man of purpose – Dan. 1:8: “Daniel made up his mind”
     1. The first thing these young men were faced with was to violate God’s law with the king’s food.
     2. Even as a young man he did not sit the fence, but “purposed in his heart” (KJV) to not be defiled by the king’s food.
     3. Despite his youth and obvious pressures to conform, he “made up his mind” to obey God no matter the cost.
     4. Because of his willingness to put God first, God granted him favor in the sight of others – Dan. 1:9
        1. Joseph: similar position – he put God first and God also granted him favor with others – *Gen. 39:1-4, 21-23; 41:41-45*
  2. Application
     1. Christians are to have purpose – What should be the purpose of the Christian? (Mt. 6:33)
     2. Jesus made it clear that in all areas of life we need to have the purpose of seeking “first His kingdom and righteousness” & God will add the rest.
     3. So many people forget that and get caught up in their worldly cares and often wonder why they don’t seem to get ahead – don’t forget God!
     4. Christians must have their minds made up to obey God, not to sit the fence! *(IE: I Kings 18:21: Elijah condemned Israel for sitting the fence)*
     5. No matter how young one may be, it is not too late to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness!”
  3. Dare to be like Daniel and have the purpose to obey God!

#### Principle

* 1. Daniel refused to compromise his convictions – Dan. 1:8; 5:17; 6:10
     1. As a young man, he refused to eat or drink the king’s food – *Dan. 1:8*
     2. As an old man, he refused the gifts of Belshazzar – Dan. 5:13-17
     3. Under the penalty of death, he refused to obey the decree of Darius the Persian king – Dan. 6:10
     4. He could be trusted (Trusted by king in his affairs; trusted by peers to pray!)
  2. Application
     1. Christians are to be people of principle
     2. People admire persons of principle – outwardly they may ridicule them, but inwardly they respect it on a level (perhaps envy it).
     3. Ps. 15:1-5: Some headings say this describes a “Citizen of Zion.”
        1. David says this is the ideal, obedient child of God & one that may dwell with God!
        2. II Pet. 1:5-11: Peter says the one who practices these things will never stumble!
        3. Christians are to be people of “moral excellence!” (Trusted)
     4. People of principle are highly sought after by God, and by man!
  3. Dare to be like Daniel and be a person of principle rather than of price!

#### Purity

* 1. Daniel not only possessed godly purpose & principle, but exemplified purity – Dan. 6:1-4
  2. His opponents could not find any fault…
     1. He was faultless in his business affairs – Dan. 6:1-4
        1. “No negligence or corruption was to be found in him.”
        2. *Could we say that of any of our politicians today?*
     2. This would help to explain his rise to positions of great power and responsibility.
     3. Of course, his purity in business affairs was related to:
        1. His purpose to please God.
        2. His principle to not compromise, therefore he could be trusted.
  3. God vindicated Daniel when He rescued him from the mouths of the lions! (Dan. 6:22: God declared him innocent!)
  4. Application
     1. Christians are to maintain purity of conduct, whether young or old – I Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:6-8; I John 3:3
     2. Free or bondmen (applies to workers today) – Titus 2:9-10
        1. Col. 3:23-24: We serve God even on the job!
     3. People who maintain purity in dealing with others are often given positions of great responsibility & privilege, because they can be trusted.
        1. IE: Positions of classified security clearance: undergo extensive background history to see if they are financially responsible, meaning above taking a bribe.
  5. Dare to be like Daniel in maintaining purity of conduct with others!

#### Prayer

* 1. Having purpose, principle, and purity is all well and good, but the thing that ties it all together to be pleasing to God is prayer: Daniel was a man of prayer – Dan. 6:10; 9:20-23
     1. Dan. 6:10: A glimpse of Daniel’s prayer life:
        1. He knelt in prayer – demonstration of his humility.
        2. He prayed three times daily – demonstration of his continued dependence on God.
        3. He gave thanks to God – demonstration of his acknowledgment of the source of his blessings (even in the midst of persecution).
        4. He prayed as was his “custom since early days” (NKJV) – demonstrating his faithfulness & trust in God.
        5. His custom to pray so diligently no doubt helped him stay a man of purpose, principle & purity through his rise of power over the ungodly.
     2. It was while in prayer that the angel Gabriel came to Daniel and called him, “highly esteemed” (Dan. 9:20-23).
  2. Application
     1. Christians are to pray often – Col. 4:2; I Thess. 5:17-18
     2. If our efforts to live purposeful, principled, and pure lives are not what they should be, could it be an undisciplined prayer life is the reason?
     3. Eph. 6:18: We know the pieces of the armor of God *(Eph. 6:10-17),* but we sometimes forget prayer is what holds it together (straps).
     4. We need to maintain that relationship with our God (James 5:16)
  3. Dare to be like Daniel in praying regularly to God!

## Conclusion

1. Many have the false assumption that to “get ahead” in the world one must conform to the sinful practices of the world (“When in Rome” mentality).
2. But even today there are many Christians who demonstrate that when they “dare to be like Daniel” they can succeed in the affairs of men without selling their souls!
3. When we dare to be like Daniel, we can succeed with men and with God!
4. How about you? Will you dare to be like Daniel by becoming a person of:
   1. Purpose?
   2. Principle?
   3. Purity?
   4. Prayer?
5. Dare to be like Daniel, highly esteemed by men and by God because of your godly character!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!