

Bible Characters and Their Message

Daniel

Dare to be Different

Introduction

There is a sense in which life is a struggle to conform. That is because you were never meant to live in a world like the one you find yourself. You were not created to live in a world that has the presence of sin, injustice, wrongdoing and evil. That was never God's intention for you. And so, we feel the pressure to conform to this world around us.

Daniel has some great advice on how to rise above the ordinary in this world—how to live a sacred life in a secular world.

1. Daniel knew _____.

If we want to dare to be different in a world that wants us to conform, then we must settle in our minds, once in for all just who we are.

a. Self-_____ (Daniel 1:8)

"Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself."

Daniel had a balanced self-esteem

b. Self-_____ (1Cor. 6:19-20)

"Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price, therefore honor God with your body."

Daniel had a balanced self-esteem and a healthy self-respect.

c. Self—_____ (Daniel 1:20)

"In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom."

Daniel used his natural _____, _____, and _____ to be the best he could.

If you want to dare to be different in a world that wants you to conform, then you must settle in your mind, once and for all, just who you are.

2. Daniel knew why he was _____.

a. Daniel lived his life for an audience of _____, his _____ (Daniel 10:12)

"Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them."

b. Daniel was not easily distracted from his life's _____.

Under great pressure Daniel showed that wealth, power and money were no distraction to him. Once king Nebuchadnezzar offered Daniel payment to interpret some writing. (Daniel 5:17)

"Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means."

c. Daniel didn't allow the _____ of people to dissuade him from his life's purpose.

Once he _____ even the king of Babylon.
(Daniel 5:22-23)

3. Daniel knew where his strength came from.

a. Daniel prayed even though it was _____.

Daniel is famous for being a man of _____.
It's clear that he looked to God for his source of strength.

When Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs to pray. (Daniel 6:10)

Although the expression of his faith was forbidden, he persisted with it.

b. Prayer was second _____ to Daniel. (Daniel 6:10)

Daniel's times of prayer sustained his faith in difficult days.
This is where he found strength.

c. Daniel's prayers were _____. (Daniel 10:12)
"Your words were heard and I have come in response to them."

Conclusion

We know someone like Daniel and that's Jesus. Jesus knew who he was, why he was here and where his strength came from. Those facts gave Jesus the ability to live a life of difference in a world that wanted him to conform.

And Jesus promises to help you do the same.