

Th 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, January 15, 2017

“Daniel: Uncompromising Faith ~ Standing Firm”

Daniel 1:1-21

compromise = to ‘settle a dispute by mutual \_\_\_\_\_; to meet half way; make a deal; come to an \_\_\_\_\_; find a happy medium.’

compromise = to ‘accept standards that are \_\_\_\_\_ than desirable; to sell out, weaken, give in, or \_\_\_\_\_ one’s values.’

From the moment we begin life in this world, we learn the art of \_\_\_\_\_. We learn how to get what we want and to seek the path of least \_\_\_\_\_.

The world teaches us that if we can get by with a little \_\_\_\_\_ than our \_\_\_\_\_, do it. If we can \_\_\_\_\_ a little on our principles to accomplish our \_\_\_\_\_, do it.

The church has accepted the world’s \_\_\_\_\_ pattern, the world’s \_\_\_\_\_ system, and the world’s \_\_\_\_\_. It has so long compromised with the world that its almost impossible to imagine what an \_\_\_\_\_ life might look like.

Scripture is very clear on how we are to live in the world. From Genesis to Revelation—the whole approach of God to His people is that we are to live \_\_\_\_\_ from the world. We are \_\_\_\_\_ it, but not \_\_\_\_\_ it.

In the Gospel, God has set us a \_\_\_\_\_ that is not, nor cannot be, \_\_\_\_\_ with the world.

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15)

“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

Daniel was of \_\_\_\_\_ decent—a prince in the house of Judah, who found himself in the midst of a \_\_\_\_\_ culture, surrounded by people whose \_\_\_\_\_ and government were different from his own.

Three times in the Book of Daniel, Daniel is referred to as a man “highly \_\_\_\_\_,” by God. He was truly a noble \_\_\_\_\_—a hero of the faith.

Spiritual character and status isn’t \_\_\_\_\_, but always the result of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God at work in the life of the believer, combined with that person’s willingness to be \_\_\_\_\_. Character is something that’s rarely developed in easy or \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances, but through \_\_\_\_\_ and challenge.

There had to be the story of Daniel in the King’s \_\_\_\_\_ before there could ever be a story of Daniel in the lion’s den.

“Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skilful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king’s palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.” (Daniel 1:3-4)

Instead of condemning Daniel and his friends to a life of servitude, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that they be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Babylonian language and culture and trained for the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 STRATEGIES TO MAKE DANIEL COMPROMISE

#1. \_\_\_\_\_.

As a result of his exile, Daniel found himself isolated from all the positive \_\_\_\_\_ that previously moulded his life and character in the ways of \_\_\_\_\_—including:

We live in a culture that’s becoming increasingly more \_\_\_\_\_ to the things fo God.

The more we allow ourselves to be isolated from God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the more \_\_\_\_\_ we are to being attacked and defeated.

The more we are regularly under the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Word and connected to God’s people, the \_\_\_\_\_ we’ll be when temptations come our way.

“We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.” (Hebrews 10:25)

**Are you reading the Scriptures regularly? Are you consistently hearing the word taught? Are you regularly gathering with God’s people?**

#2. \_\_\_\_\_.

It was a very intensive program of study designed to teach them a very different way of \_\_\_\_\_ about life and values—simply put: to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

This indoctrination process was about so much more than just \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge and changing the way they \_\_\_\_\_ –it also involved changing their \_\_\_\_\_.

A name described a person 's soul and \_\_\_\_\_, indicating who they were in the depths of their being.

One of the greatest challenges Christian parents face today is to teach their children how to \_\_\_\_\_ about life and life's issues from \_\_\_\_\_.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

### **What is your world view? Have you conformed to this world?**

#3. \_\_\_\_\_.

“The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank.” (Daniel 1:5)

Nebuchadnezzar was trying to change them by giving them the \_\_\_\_\_ life and feeding their \_\_\_\_\_ desires.

This good life was intended to \_\_\_\_\_ him off the life to which God had called him—to get him to focus on \_\_\_\_\_, the desires of his flesh, and a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

Nebuchadnezzar knew enough about the human heart to know that most people have their \_\_\_\_\_. Good times, comfort, self-esteem strokes, and a prestigious position in society are usually a sufficient bid for a person's \_\_\_\_\_.

“Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.” (Galatians 5:16-17)

### **How have you been tempted to over indulge? What are your fleshy desires?**

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way” (Daniel 1:8)

## **3 KEYS TO DANIEL'S ABILITY TO STAND FIRM**

#1. **He knew God's** \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel knew that according to God's Law, certain \_\_\_\_\_ were excluded

from his diet.

We can't stand firm in our faith if we don't know the truth of God's Word because we'll be swayed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world and by teaching that seems to line up with Scripture, but doesn't.

“I say this so that no one will mislead you with arguments that merely sound good... Be careful not to let anyone rob you of this faith through a shallow and misleading philosophy. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ.” (Colossians 2:4, 8)

### **How well do you know God's word? How grounded are you in Scripture?**

#2. **Daniel was** \_\_\_\_\_.

“purposed in his heart” = *suwm* =

It didn't just happen—it wasn't left up to \_\_\_\_\_—Daniel made a \_\_\_\_\_ decision not to eat the king's food.

“Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.” (Ephesians 5:10)

### **How intentional are you in living the Christian life?**

#3. **Daniel knew** \_\_\_\_\_ **he was**.

It didn't matter what others called them, they were the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and their \_\_\_\_\_ was in Him.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave them the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

### **Are you aware of your identity in Christ?**

“Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.” (Daniel 1:12-12)

One of the major themes of the Book of Daniel is God's \_\_\_\_\_. God honoured the faith of Daniel and his friends and they were able to continue their diet. God continued to honour them by giving them \_\_\_\_\_ and understanding and increased \_\_\_\_\_ with the king.

The Book of Daniel teaches us that this world will always be a \_\_\_\_\_ to the people of God.

“They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.” (John 17:16)