

Men of the Bible

Lesson 2: “DANIEL ON CHRISTIAN VALUES”

OBJECTIVE: For you to prioritize Christian Values in your life, despite living in a highly secular society, that shows you represent Jesus as His disciple

INTRODUCTION

To live as a disciple of Jesus means several things:

1. It means you are sacrificing something that the world offers in order to show forth the salvation you have been given.
2. It also means that you must or have chosen a pattern or certain lifestyle in which you will live out your daily life.

QUESTION: What standards do you uphold in your life regardless of people or situations?

Today, we live in a post-modern society, where values have changed drastically. In this society, anything goes and there are no absolutes that are good for all people.

Because we live in a society that has no absolutes and no common standards, are we leaving the world a better place than we found it? Have we settled for mediocrity and a laissez-faire approach to God?

Today, we will discuss Daniel and how he maintained a Godly standard regardless of people and situations.

Let's look at some aspects of Daniel's life:

Daniel was a bright and smart young man taken from home country by King Nebuchadnezzar. The full account is in I Kings 24 & 25. Nebuchadnezzar wanted the best and the brightest to be brought to Babylon. He wanted the youth to accept the Babylonian form of government.

APPLICATION 1: Determine A Religious Standard

Daniel 1:8 – Determine your religious standard with a “made up mind.”

Daniel determined he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or wine.

STANDARD CORRECTION: We should correct the “choice foods” we eat.

Consider your health and wellness, should you raise the standard for health in your life.

Are you eating to live or living to eat?

STANDARD CORRECTION: Always choose what God gave you versus what the world offers you.

Read 1:17 “God gave them knowledge.”

Decisions must be made to choose what God gave you or what the world is offering you. If you take what the world offers you, you are compromising what God gave you.

APPLICATION 2: Determine to Use Your Gift

Daniel 2:24 – Daniel says, “I will declare the interpretation to the king.”

King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and none of his magicians, sorcerers and Chaldeans were able to interpret the dream. The king promises to kill all the wise men in Babylon.

STANDARD CORRECTION: Employ your gifts. Daniel was in a secular environment, but he utilized his gifts, for the glory of God.

Read I Peter 4:10 & Romans 12:6

STANDARD CORRECTION: Find yourself involved in a ministry utilizing a gift.

Gift utilization is an issue of commitment. Do you have an issue of commitment?

APPLICATION 3: Determine a Level of Worship You Will Maintain

Daniel 3:5-7 – Daniel refused to worship a golden image

Daniel is now risking his life. The order of the king is that anyone who disobeys his orders will be placed in the furnace of blazing fire.

The Jewish boys did not bow down to the King's orders.

STANDARD CORRECTION: Develop a Religious Identity – RI is knowing what religion is and identifying with the beliefs of that religion.

Daniel's religion was based on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

NOTE: There was distinct difference between the two god's King Nebuchadnezzar and Jewish Boys.

- The Jewish boys, their God was living, the King's god was a cold gold image.
- The Jewish boys' God had rules called the Ten Commandments to let them know what is right and wrong. The King's god had no rules.
- The Jewish boys' God was a Creator, but the King's god was created.

Religious Identity means you identify with one religion and not multiple religions. The world standard says it's okay to believe in multiple gods. That is like going into a candy store and buying all the candy you can eat and then eat it all at one time. The consumption will make you sick.

Multiple religions will destroy your joy and your peace because you will be confused about which rules and commandments you should abide by.

STANDARD CORRECTION: Maintain Corporate Worship

The world's standard of work from home has crept into the spirits of Christian church worshippers. Christian church worshippers are opting to worship from home. Jesus went to the temple for worship.

CONCLUSION:

Disciples of Christ should never compromise on their Christian Values.

Daniel 6:10, did not compromise on his prayer life, despite King Darius' orders that no one should make a petition to any god or man or be thrown in the Lion's Den.

Daniel continued to make his prayers to the Lord. Christian disciples should never compromise on spending time with God. Make every effort to have quality time with God.