

8-8-21 Children's Sunday
DANIEL'S EXAMPLE FOR CHILDREN TO FOLLOW

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

Daniel 1:10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which [are] of your sort? then shall ye make [me] endanger my head to the king.

Daniel 1:11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

Daniel 1:12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Daniel 1:13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

Daniel 1:14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Daniel 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Daniel 1:16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were] in all his realm.

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued [even] unto the first year of king Cyrus.

BEING LIKE DANIEL

Introduction:

There are a lot of great examples of people to follow in the Bible, but one of the greatest heroes of faith was Daniel. Who would not want to be like Daniel?

He was able to interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar

He was able to survive being cast into the lions' den..

He was the greatest of the wise men of Babylon..

He was elevated to the highest position in the kingdom..

Was there anyone like Daniel in the Bible?

Where did it all start with Daniel? How did he get to be so great a servant and prophet of the Lord?

We find the answer in Daniel Chapter 1:8

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

I. DANIEL GAVE HIS HEART TO THE LORD..

He purposed in his heart to follow the Lord and not defile himself ..

It started with a resolve in his heart to follow the Lord. He purposed in his heart to follow the Lord and not defile himself..

What does it mean to purpose something in your heart?

It means to make a commitment.

It means to put your heart into it..

To do something and really mean it..

If you want to be used of God, and do something for God .. you need to make it a heart decision. You need to mean it from the bottom of your heart.

Have you given your heart to the Lord?

Do you love God with all your heart?

It says of Daniel, he purposed in his heart to not defile himself and to follow the Lord and to obey the Lord.

What is number one in your heart? What means more to you than anything else? What is the most important thing in your life?

If you are going to be like Daniel, if you want to be blessed like Daniel, you need to commit your heart to the Lord.

I believe Daniel gave his heart to the Lord at an early age.

This was a commitment he made in his heart.

A. How do you make such a commitment?

You do this between you and God alone.

You do it in prayer, in the privacy of your heart.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Someone once asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was in the Bible

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

This is a commitment of the heart.

If you're going to be like Daniel you need to purpose in your heart to love God more than anyone, or anything else.

You can tell him in prayer that you want to love and follow him. Purpose in your heart to follow the Lord!

B. WHEN SHOULD YOU MAKE THIS COMMITMENT

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts...

II Corinthians 6:2 behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.)

The best time to give your heart to the Lord is when the Lord is tugging at your heart and trying to convince you.

This morning would be a good time to purpose in your heart to love God and follow God, to give your heart to Jesus.

II. HE DID'NT LET PEOPLE TURN HIS HIS HEART FROM THE LORD...

Daniel 1:10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking

than the children which [are] of your sort? then shall ye make [me] endanger my head to the king.

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Daniel 1:13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

People will try and convince you not to give your heart to the Lord and not to obey the Lord.

These can be teachers, leaders, friends, or peers.

Sometimes, people may even make fun of you for following the Lord..

Some people will try and talk you out of following the Lord..

Don't be surprised if not everyone will be excited about your decision to follow Jesus.

If you're going to be like Daniel you need to give your heart completely to the Lord and not let others influence you other wise..

III. HE ACTIONS BACKED UP HIS LOVE FOR GOD..

Words are cheap...

A person can say I love the Lord, but his actions can show other wise.

Daniel could have made excuses why he should just go ahead and compromise and eat the forbidden food.

Jesus said if you love me, do what I say to do.

Obey the Lord..

It is not enough to just say you love the Lord!

Daniel said to Melzar, let us just obey our God for 10 days, and see what happens

IV. HE WAS REWARDED FOR HIS OBEDIENCE..

Daniel 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Daniel 1:16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

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Daniel 1:18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

In the end Daniel was rewarded for his faith and obedience.

So too if we purpose in our hearts to love God and obey God.. and not let others way us from our resolve, we too will be rewarded in due time.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.