

Series: The Book of Daniel

Sermon: Resolved to be Faithful

Passage: Daniel 1 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: God's people need to be reminded that He is always in control and we are to follow Him no matter what!

I. The Backdrop of Daniel

- Lev. 18 & 26, Deut. 27-28 = God's promised blessing for Israel's obedience & cursing for disobedience.
- In 722 BC the 10 Northern tribes of Israel had experienced God's judgment at the hand of the Assyrians.
- Over the next 100+ years Isaiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah had warned the 2 Southern tribes of Judah that the same fate would be theirs if they did not repent and return to obedience.
- King Josiah was the last king to lead his people to obey God's law.
- 605 BC, Josiah has been dead for almost 5 years.....

II. The Sovereign God Keeps His Promise (1:1-7)

- In 1 year Nebuchadnezzar has defeated armies of Egypt & Assyria and assumed the throne of Babylon.
- "The Lord," however, is the One who has given His people Judah into Nebuchadnezzar's hand.
- In this deportation some of the temple vessels are stolen and the best of the people are taken.
- RE-education was the Babylonian strategy for those gifted in learning to their pagan world-view.

III. Four Captives Remain Faithful (1:8-21)

- The King's food may have been "unclean" but most likely it had been offered to or blessed by idols.
- Daniel resolved that he would remain faithful to God and his three friends followed in agreement.
- His resolve was a humble request and not a boastful revolt.
- On their their faith, God orchestrated favor with their Babylonian master.
- Persistence and creativity was necessary for Daniel's request to be approved.
- God blessed their faithfulness and He increased their ability to learn and perform well before the King.
- God also gave Daniel understanding of dreams and visions which will become very important.

IV. Take Away Applications

- God always means what He says. He blesses obedience and judges sin.
- God is always in control of the kingdoms of man even when He seems absent, silent, or defeated.
- Parental faithfulness in training their kids plays a huge role in their future resolve.
- RE-education remains a major strategy of the enemy.
- Faithful following Jesus in a pagan land will require constant acts of resolve - obedience to His Word & being led by the Holy Spirit.
- Remaining faithful to Christ will always be against the current but our attitude should be one of humility and grace.
- We can trust God to move on our behalf when we resolve to remain faithful.
- Daniel & his friends are great examples of faithfulness, but Jesus is the greatest faithful One - follow Him!