

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Daniel - Part 4 Conviction, Commitment and Courage

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Introduction

Daniel was invited to explain the writing on the wall to a powerful group of people who were decidedly anti-God. This was the next generation of a pagan king who had forgotten what the previous generation had learnt about God. Daniel was faced with a choice: would he speak up for God with courage and conviction, or would he act in compliance with the culture? What can we learn from this account of living among lions?

Read Daniel 5

Discuss

1. Read Daniel 5 and have one person re-tell the story in their own words. Have others add to the story if any key points were missing. What spiritual principles or verses stood out?
2. See verses 1-4 and 22-23. How did the Babylonian party mock Yahweh? Why was it particularly offensive that this was initiated by Belshazzar?
3. See verses 11-12. What was Daniel recognised for? Have you experienced a situation where a non-Christian has come to you in time of crisis because they knew you were a Christian and could offer support?
4. See verse 17. Why did Daniel refuse the king's gifts and rewards? Have you been in a situation where you were tempted to compromise your convictions because there were possibilities of a reward, or conversely, a price to pay? Where does our reward ultimately come from? How can this impact our decision making?
5. See verses 18-22. What did God judge Nebuchadnezzar for? Why is this sin so deadly to even Christians today? See James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5.

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6. Note that Daniel provided an explanation of the writing on wall when he was asked to. How can we determine when to speak up and become a spokesperson if not asked?
7. Daniel explained the sign to Belshazzar truthfully even though it was a condemnation. Why is telling the truth important even in difficult circumstances? See John 8:32. Have you had to tell someone a difficult truth? How can this be done with love and grace?
8. It was said that “It is going to get harder to stand for the things of the Lord.” Do you believe this is the case? Why or why not?

Respond

Daniel stands as an exemplar who was God’s spokesperson, fearless in every context, not tempted to compromise, and spoke the truth in a culture that was hostile to God. This hostility is similar to that of our society today. What area of conviction do you feel challenged to hold publicly? What is one thing you need to be courageous about in matters of faith in your life or workplace?