

Daniel: Faith and Fortitude

June 25, 2017

OLD TESTAMENT
ENCOUNTERS
WITH GOD

Open: What's something that you resolved to do and succeeded at even though it was hard?

Read: Daniel 1:1-8, 15-20.

Discuss:

1. From verses 3-4, how would you describe Daniel and his friends? How do you think God used their experience and aptitude to prepare them to serve Him? What are some ways you have seen God use your experience and aptitude to serve Him?
2. Why do you think Daniel resolved to not partake of the king's food and drink (v. 8)? What does this choice say about Daniel, especially given the position and power of Nebuchadnezzar? Are there times when you have had this kind of resolve? Explain.
3. In this story concerning the king's food and drink (vs. 8-16), what do we learn about Daniel's view of God? Do you view God as Daniel did? How is that evident in your life?
4. God gifted Daniel to interpret dreams and visions (v. 7). How did God use this ability in Daniel to bring glory to Himself? (*See Daniel chapters 2, 4, 5.*) What supernatural gifts has God given you that you have been able to use for His service?
5. As you survey Daniel chapters 2, 7 and 9, what types of encounters with God do you see Daniel having? How did these shape Daniel? Can you relate to any of these experiences?
6. Daniel is clearly a courageous man. *Read Daniel 4:27; 5:22, 23; and 6:10.* How is Daniel's courage evident in these verses? How do you think God developed such courage in Daniel? Tell about a time God gave you special courage.
7. According to Daniel 6:10, it was the habit of Daniel to pray three times a day. What elements of Daniel's life might suggest that this was a habit developed in his youth? How can spiritual habits in our lives have a significant impact over time?

Apply: What's one area of your life in which you need to apply Daniel's determination, faithfulness or courage? What will you do to make sure this happens?

Pray: Pray that God gives you the determination and courage to always do what's right and to honor Him at all times—even when it's hard.

Daniel 1:1-8, 15-20.

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. ³ 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, ⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful 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. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶ Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself...

¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. (ESV)