

Title: Dare to Be a Daniel

Scripture: Daniel 6:1-5

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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**Daniel 6:1-5** *"It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; 2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. 3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. 4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. 5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."*

Have you ever examined yourself? Whether we think we do or not, we do it daily. We are always checking to make sure we look presentable. The most important examination we can do of ourselves is a spiritual examination. Paul said in Colossians 2:6 *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:"*

There are a few questions to ask ourselves in order to complete a spiritual examination of our lives:

1. Where's my spiritual life at?
2. On a scale of 1-10, where am I in my maturity of serving God?

Confucius said "When you see a good man, think of imitating him. When you see a bad man, examine your own heart for the bad man will produce corruption." When the world judges us [Christians], they judge us based on the bad apples - Not the good ones. Daniel was an example for us to look to. He was chosen for his devotion to the Lord. Daniel reached such a place of power and prominence – the only way he did this was by not compromising.

In verse 4 of Daniel 6, it says *"Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him."* Reading this, why should we dare to be a Daniel?

- 1. Daniel was a man of purpose** (purpose meaning something that a person seeks to achieve): In 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 didn't refuse the king's meat because it was the king's meat, but because of what happens before the meal. Daniel knew that these people worshipped idols and Daniel knew that it would defile his body if he took it. He also knew that he would be viewed as weak because it wasn't something of God.
  - a. If you're unsaved, there is only thing that you should purpose in your heart: believing that Christ is the only way to salvation. John 14:6 *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*
  - b. If you are saved, there should be one true purpose in your life: seek to honor and please God. Your life be an example of Christ. Matthew 6:33 says *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Luke 9:23 *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*
- 2. Daniel was a man of principle:** again in verse 4 it says *"neither was there any error or fault found in him."* No one expects a wishy-washy person – especially not a Christian. Churches are closing every day. One reason is because there are no principles. Daniel refused to eat the king's food, he refused to obey Darius' law, and he refused gifts from Belshazzar. God expects and deserves us standing on the principles of God. If you don't have principles you

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don't have anything. Psalm 18:21 *"For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God."* People don't see a need for church anymore. People drop their principles of attending church to attend a football game.

3. **Daniel was a man of purity:** Again in verse 4, it says: *"but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful."* Whether it was the king's business or God's business, Daniel was going to keep himself pure. Daniel did not want to cause harm to the principles of the Lord.
  - a. In a world of sin, Christians will struggle to live a life of purity while surrounded by wickedness. It's hard to live pure when surrounded by things that are corrupt.
  - b. It is not enough for a gardener to love flowers, he must also hate weeds. I Timothy 4:12 *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."* People can tell a lot about how you act by how you behave. It is not easy, but it is a must that we live life as cleanly as we can. If something dirty gets into our lives, we must get it out as soon as possible because it will always lead to corruption. The Christian life of living clean and pure is a daily struggle.
4. **Daniel was a man of prayer:** Daniel 6:10 *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."* During this time, once king Darius had signed the decree no one could ask anything of God or man for 30 days. Daniel normally prayed three times a day to his God, our God, and he wasn't going to stop just because of a piece of paper. They were wanting to find Daniel guilty of breaking the law. If you were told to stop praying in public, would you obey the law or would you still show your devotion to the Lord? Daniel had a deep desire to stay devoted to God. Paul told the Thessalonian church in I Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing. Why did he say this? Because it is necessary to the Christian life.

Looking at your life, could you say that you are a person of purpose, principal, purity, and prayer? Does your life show a devotion to God and the things that he commands us to do daily as Christians? Are you striving to be a Daniel? Our church has a purpose and it needs people of purity, prayer, and principle to carry that purpose out.