



LIFE LESSONS FROM OLD TESTAMENT HEROES WEEK #11 DANIEL

The Book of Daniel is the story of a man who lived a life without compromise. While Daniel and his Jewish friends were still young, they were taken captive in Babylon during Nebuchadnezzar's first attack against Jerusalem. They lived the majority of their lives in exile in a pagan nation, which meant they had to face the trials of living a sacred life in a very secular society. "Stand Up" could be the title of this chapter, and the whole book of Daniel for that matter.

Over and over again, Daniel found himself in a pressure-cooker environment as he tried to serve a Gentile king and still be faithful to the King of Kings. How did Daniel handle the pressure to compromise? God showed him a way that allowed him to obey the Lord as well as obey the laws of the King. Temptation to compromise our Godly character is every Believer's daily struggle (some more than others). In addition to the struggles of our own flesh, we also live in a society that wants us to conform to its ungodly example. However, Jesus Christ has called us to stand up and dare to be different, to live a non-negotiable kind of faith.

*But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine,
and he asked the Chief Official for permission not to defile himself this way.
Daniel 1:8*

STAND UP - Daniel

Daniel 1:3-16

The hardest part of standing up for what you believe in is staying true to your beliefs while existing in a culture that may not agree. Perhaps no one knows this better than Daniel. Kidnapped from his homeland, he was forced to live in a pagan culture that challenged his lifestyle and beliefs. With great victory, Daniel demonstrates how one can be courageous in their faith. One can predetermine what he or she will, and will not, accept.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. If you had been in Daniel's sandals, how would you have responded to being deported? (Daniel 1:1–2) How would you feel about God in the midst of such a crisis?
2. When have you been in a situation similar to the one Daniel experienced in Dan 1:3–7? Did you seek to counter the opposition with a Godly alternative? (Daniel 1:8–13) What was the result?
3. How should you respond when your biblical absolutes and values are no longer accepted by your culture? Give some examples to clarify your answer.
4. Predetermine three things you have already decided you would not do if your superior/government/boss and/or your culture requested.
5. Predetermine three things you will do, even if your community, culture, or friends insult you.
6. How has our families and church families empowered you to stand up for your convictions? In what ways can you and the church family make improvements so to be more effective?
7. Note those people in your life who have been like Daniel and ask yourself if you desire to be same. Why or why not?