



The Daniel Option

MAIN THING

Conforming to a sick culture is to be sick

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 6:1-28

ICEBREAKER

What is the most radical thing you've ever done because of your faith?

OPENING THOUGHT

Daniel gives us the perfect example of how to live and prosper in a culture that is antagonistic to our beliefs as Christians. He was a Jewish captive who was taken to Babylon and forced to serve as an administrator in the palace under King Nebuchadnezzar. The story of Daniel and the lions den is one of the most famous in Scripture. However, the rest of the story is equally important, because the decisions Daniel made prior to that incident is what gave him success not only in the lions den but for the rest of his life.

I encourage every Christian to study the "Daniel Option" and take it to heart. As our culture moves further and further away from Christ, living as Daniel did will become more and more important. If you have children, make it your point to raise them as Daniels, because they are certainly in environments that are antagonistic to their faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. One of the points made in the sermon was, "Be excellent at what Non-Christians Demand of You." The sermon mentioned understanding the "currency" and being excellent at it. What is the "currency" at your school or place of work? What do you need to be excellent at in order to put in place the first step of the Daniel option?
3. Another one of the points was, "Do Not Budge So Much As One Inch On What You Know To Be Right." Daniel was told not to pray for thirty days. Honestly, that wouldn't be a big deal for most Christians. However, Daniel would rather have been thrown into the lions den than miss so much as one night of prayer with God. What are you in danger of budging on? What "little thing" is tempting for you to compromise on?

LIFE APPLICATION

Many of us never get to see God's miracles because we compromise and "budge" on things so that we are never in the lions den. Do you think that Daniel's friends tried to dissuade him? "Come on, Daniel, pray quietly. Pray at 2 am so they don't hear you. Or stop altogether. God understands." Did I miss anything that was probably said to him?

The reason the world is the way it is right now is that we have churches full of compromised Christians who have acquiesced to the world instead of making no compromises. If the enemy can get you to make one little compromise, the door is wide open to other compromises. Discuss some compromises you've seen in the church or in Christianity that seem small, yet led to much larger things down the road.

CHALLENGE

Daniel had no one but himself. Fortunately, we have the church. We have Christian friends to pray for us and lift us up and encourage us. Spend time praying for each other- specifically- that each person would take the Daniel Option in life from now on.