

BABYLON: Resolve
Text: Daniel 1:1-21 (page 737)

Pastor Brandon Zieske

The vessels of God: Verse 2

It's not our circumstances that determine our outlook; it's the way we interpret our circumstances that determines our outlook.

If it's by God's grace, then thriving in Babylon is not impossible.

Pattern of Assimilation: Verse 3-7

Daniel's Resolve: Verse 8-21

When we lower our standards, we slowly weaken our resolve.

Daniel was putting his God on display with his resolve!

Moving from Good Intentions to Resolve: Romans 5:1-5 (page 942)

It starts with having a relationship with God.

We start in grace and we stand in grace.

Suffering is more often than not, the battle within the heart to compromise or not.

Obedience in the small leads to obedience in the big. Small victories over time lead to big victories.

Hope produces courage, and courage is found in our resolve.

Do this today:

1. Purpose in your heart to obey God.
2. Allow this commitment to influence EVERY aspect of your life.
3. Realize it's not impossible, so be COURAGEOUS.

Food for Thought for the week of January 15, 2017
(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

Text: Daniel 1:1-21

1. What nicknames have you picked up along the way? Or tell a good story about a nickname given to a family member or friend.
2. What is conveyed by giving a new name to a person? What is conveyed to Daniel and his three friends?
3. How were the Israelites chosen and trained for the king's special service? How did the king seek to capture their minds? Bodies? Loyalty? Why does Daniel resist the one about the diet? With what results?
4. RESOLVE vs COMPROMISE: Discuss the key points from Pastor Brandon's sermon. Consider these words in your discussion—tested, obedience, conviction, circumstances, creative solutions, decisive, leads to.
5. What would be an equivalent choice between God's way and the "royal food" of the world today? Think "This is my line and I will not cross it!"
6. "Our faith can filter what we are learning. It will help us understand our culture better and how we can share the truth of the Gospel more effectively." Comment.

Scriptures for further discussion: John 10:10, Joshua 1:7-9, Psalms 1:1-2, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Proverbs 4:23, John 14:15, Galatians 5:22-25, Philippians 2:12-13, Colossians 3:1-4, 1 Peter 1:15-16

January 15, 2017



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