

Message Notes | Daniel

Part 1: When Culture Shifts

Daniel 1

→ how do we navigate a culture shifting away from Christ?

→ Babylon attacks Jerusalem - **vs. 1-2**

#1 When culture shifts, God remains _____.
He still has a _____ and a _____.

→ Daniel is taken to Babylon - **vs. 3-7**

#2 When culture shifts, _____ who _____ you are.

→ Daniel doesn't eat the king's food - **vs. 8-21**

#3 When culture shifts...

Don't _____. **Don't _____.** _____.

→ being resolute - **vs. 8, Luke 9:51**

Group Questions | Daniel

Part 1: When Culture Shifts

Daniel 1

1. What's the biggest culture shock you've ever experienced? (traveling, moving, new job or school) What did you learn from that experience?
2. What is one way that you've noticed the American culture shift away from Christian beliefs? How have Christians you know responded to that shift?

3. **Read Daniel 1:1-2.** Daniel writes that "the Lord delivered" Judah into the hands of the Babylonians. What does that mean?

God is never absent. How does it help to know that God has a plan and a purpose right now - and always?

4. **Read Daniel 1:3-7.** What are some ways that culture tries to define or label us today?

How will it practically make a difference to hold on to the identity that God has given us?

5. **Read Daniel 1:8.** What do you think made Daneil resolve not to defile himself, even at great personal risk?

If you had to "resolve" something - to stand firm in one area of your faith or life - what would it be?

6. How would you explain the difference between assimilating to the culture vs. separating from the culture?

Why are neither of these the right direction for Christians?

7. What does it practically mean that God has called to be lights in this culture (illuminate)?

What are some unique opportunities that we have to make a difference right now in this culture?

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Daniel 1

→ how do we navigate a culture shifting away from Christ?

→ Babylon attacks Jerusalem - **vs. 1-2**

#1 When culture shifts, God remains steady.

He still has a plan and a purpose.

→ Daniel is taken to Babylon - **vs. 3-7**

#2 When culture shifts, remember who God says you are.

→ Daniel doesn't eat the king's food - **vs. 8-21**

#3 When culture shifts...

Don't assimilate. Don't separate. Illuminate.

→ being resolute - **vs. 8, Luke 9:51**

Bible Reading for Today

Daniel 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 delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— ⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

⁸ 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. ⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.