

40 Day Challenge—Part 3 October 12/13, 2013

Daniel 1:1-21

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

Contrary to the thinking of many, true prayer (like true worship) centers on God's glory, not on man's desire. We do not have the capacity to do this properly (Romans 8:26).

1:3-4 The king sought to reshape their thinking, their beliefs, their personage. He wanted to use them as an example of dominance.

1:6 Within this time frame, Daniel lost his home, his family, his surroundings, his religious structure, his life style, his freedom, his food, his name, his language...but not his faith or his integrity.

1:8 Daniel not only knew God's Word, he used it in his life choices.

1:8 If you wait until the moment of temptation, it is generally too late. Resolve in your own heart that with God's help you will build a wall around your mind, keeping out those influences.

1:8 To "defile" oneself meant to go directly against the instructions of the Most High God. Daniel knew God had instructed his people to have nothing to do with idols.

When everything in your life is upset and you find yourself in circumstances you cannot control, let the Lord take over and work out the plan He has in mind. If your heart is right with Him, His hand will work for you.

1:12-13 Daniel focused on that which he could affect within his sphere.

Prayer—Seek His will.

Priority—Put God first in every decision.

Purpose—Seize opportunities God brings our way.

- What characteristics of your life show that you are set apart from the rest of your world?
- Do the children in your world have the capacity to make God-honoring decisions apart from your influence?

HEBREW WORDS

Śûm (soom)—resolved – determine, purpose, set upon the heart; "to collect" or to gather together