

Resolved: Common People/Uncommon Courage

Daniel

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 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. (Daniel 1:1-2)

When godly faith and worldly culture collide, it will challenge your...

- ***Values*** – “Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility – 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. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king’s table.” (vv. 3-5)
- ***Identity*** – “Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.” (vv. 6-7)

Daniel: the courage of conviction...

- ***Determine what’s right ahead of time*** – “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food.” (v. 8)

Three levels of conviction...

- ***Public convictions*** – *What I say I believe (Matt. 2:8)*
- ***Private convictions*** – *What I think I believe (Mark 14:29, 31)*
- ***Core convictions*** – *What my life reveals that I believe (James 2:14, 18)*

I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. (Psalm 119:59)

- ***Be gracious every time*** – “...he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself in this way.” (v. 8b)

...always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. (1 Thes. 5:15)

- ***Trust God all the time*** – “Please test your servant for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 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.” (vv. 12-13)

As you stand firm on your conviction, God will take care of your direction...

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus. (v. 21)