

## Success Without Compromise Daniel 1:1-7

### Emulate Daniel

Man who obtained preeminence/power in lifetime:

He started out preeminent among children of Israel **Daniel 1:3-6**

Gained preeminence among wise men of Babylon **Daniel 1:17-20**

He was given power over all of Babylon **Daniel 2:48-49; 5:29**

Received similar power over Medo-Persian empire **Daniel 6:1-3,28**

How was Daniel able to reach positions of power and influence without compromising his position as a godly man?

Daniel reveals secret, how can be successful w/out selling our souls

### A Man of Purpose

*"Daniel Purposed In His Heart..."* **Daniel 1:8**

A young boy in a strange land, Daniel was immediately faced with challenge to violate God's law by eating the king's food

Despite youth and obvious pressures to conform, Dan purposed in his heart to uphold the law of God, no matter the cost

Because of his willingness to put God first, God granted Daniel favor in sight of others **Daniel 1:9**

How not explained, happened w/Joseph also - **Genesis 39:4, 21-23**

For putting God first, God blessed him in way favorably impressed others

Child of God Needs to be A Person of Purpose...

None respect "wishy-washy" person, with no direction in lives

Strong sense of purpose often breeds respect/admiration in others

What should be the "purpose" of the Christian?

Jesus makes it clear in **Matthew 6:33**

Seek will of God and fulfill it in lives, no matter circumstances

As Jesus promised, will guarantee God's favor toward us and in turn likely gain us favor in the eyes of those around us

Will you "dare to be Daniel" and be person with a purpose like he had?

### A Man of Principle

He Refused to Compromise His Convictions...

As young man, refusing eat king's meat or drink wine **Daniel 1:8**

As an old man, by refusing the gifts of Belshazzar **Daniel 5:13-17**

Threat of persecution, refused obey decree of Darius **Daniel 6:10**

People Admire Persons of Principle

Outward ridicule them, inward wish they had same convictions

When need someone that can be trusted, and depended upon to carry through with assigned task, who will they turn to?

God wants those stand by principles, their word - **Psalms 15; Matthew 5:37; James 5:12**

Society in great need of people with principle. Who dare be a Daniel, & demonstrate, by example value of being led by "principle" rather than "price", not only highly valued by God but also by fellow man.

### A Man of Purity

His Opponents Could Find No Fault...

Faultless in management of his business affairs **Daniel 6:1-4**

Helps explain rise to positions of great responsibility and power

Of course, his purity in business affairs was related to...

His overall purpose to please God first

And the fact that as a man of principle he could be trusted

Christian Also to Maintain Purity of Conduct - **1Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:1-10**

Those maintain purity in dealings with others often given positions of great responsibility & privilege, because can trust to use wisely

Likely all tied together so to receive God's blessing & man's favor by...

### **A Man of Prayer**

A Glimpse of His "Prayer Life" ... **Daniel 6:10**

He knelt in prayer, a demonstration of his humility

Three times daily, demonstrates continual dependence on God

Thanks in midst of persecution, demonstrates his gratitude and fact he had not lost sight of God's blessings

Prayers were a "custom since early days", demonstrating his persistence and faithfulness in his service to God

Likely "custom" to pray diligently helped him remain man of purpose, principle, purity, despite rise to power & preeminence over empire?

Christian do Well to Follow Daniel's Example

Must learn lesson finest of God's servants must maintain regular, fixed prayer habits to continue steadfast in devotion to Lord - **Luke 18:1; 1Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 4:2**

If efforts to live purposeful, principled, and pure lives not what should be, could undisciplined "prayer life" be reason?

Are we willing to "dare to be a Daniel" regarding prayer?

### **Success Is Ours**

False assumption - "get ahead" = conform sinful practices of world

Even today many Christians demonstrate that when one "dares be a Daniel" can succeed in affairs of men without selling souls to world

How about you? Will you "dare be a Daniel" becoming person of: Purpose? Principle? Purity? Prayer?

MarkCopeland/ExecutableOutlines