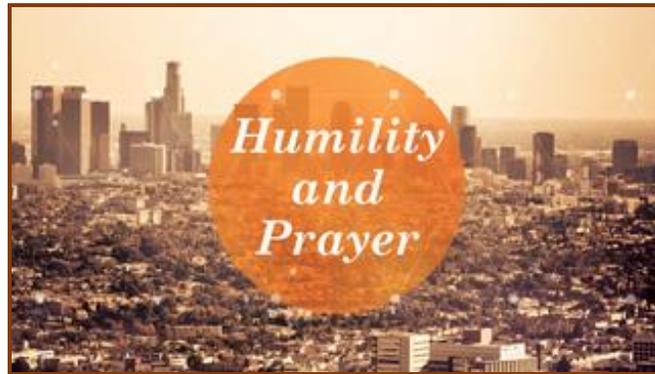


WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015

THEME: COME LET US ADORE CHRIST THE KING IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND STEWARDSHIP

Unit III – STEWARDSHIP FOR LIFE

“LESSONS IN THE STEWARDSHIP OF HUMILITY AND PRAYER”



Sunday School Lesson No. IX – February 1, 2015

Pastor Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Daniel 1:5, 8-17; Matthew 6:16-18

Required Reading: Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 6:16-18

Motto Text: Matthew 6:16-18, *“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”*

Daniel 1:8, *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Libronix Electronic Library; The Outline Bible; The Handwriting on the Wall (Dr. David Jeremiah); Word Search 10

Introduction:

We now trace the legacy of the covenant keeping God and His people to a strange land. From the great blessings of God on David's life that gave Israel a land, a capitol city and a central place of covenant worship, we now are found in a strange land many hundreds of miles away; a land of pagan idolatry and disregard for the covenant keeping God.

It is here we meet four of God's fine young men who were smart, good-looking and extremely gifted and bright. It is under these circumstances that the King of Babylon has set these young men in a position that they could be brainwashed to forsake their heritage and their God and serve Babylon's King. (Read Daniel 1:1-7).

Again, according to the reading of Daniel 1:1-7, these young men were emasculated, emancipated from their previous religion and upbringings, and their former identities were totally erased from their memories. But Daniel was committed to God's covenant even in a strange land. The roots of his upbringing were firmly in place, and the lessons learned from his parents, teachers, and preachers carried him from the days of his youth until he died at a very old age! This truth is found in Proverbs 22:6, *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

From this setting, we will learn Lessons in the Stewardship of Humility and Prayer. Beloved, to truly serve Christ, there is a need for humility and prayer. **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **The Attitude of Humility and Prayer.** Daniel 1:8 (NLT)
- **The Advantage of Humility and Prayer.** Daniel 1:9-10 (NLT)
- **The Altitude of Humility and Prayer.** Daniel 1:11-14 (NLT)
- **The Assurance of Humility and Prayer.** Daniel 1:15-17 (NLT)
- **The Application of Humility and Prayer.** Matthew 6:16-18

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Attitude of Humility and Prayer. Daniel 1:8 (NLT)

Many a soul has been challenged to have the right attitude of humility and prayer, and sadly many have failed. Adam and Eve failed and lost Paradise; Aaron the priest failed and did not enter the Promised Land; Ananias and Sapphira failed and lost their physical lives; now what are you and I losing because of our failure to be totally humble and uncompromising towards our Lord Jesus Christ?

According to verse 8, Daniel determined not to defile himself, even with the compromising of a pagan diet! Daniel had the right attitude towards God and was not willing to compromise it, even in a strange land. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to ***“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*** Remember the wise steward of God walks in humility to God and prayer!

II. The Advantage of Humility and Prayer. Daniel 1:9-10 (NLT)

Because Daniel was willing to stand for the Lord even in a strange land, God gave him friends and advantage. His friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were captive young men like himself. Favor was given to him by God with the Chief of Staff of the king’s eunuchs, a gentleman named Ashpenaz. Beloved, God’s favor towards Daniel was the result of His sovereignty. No land is strange to Him, because ***“the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof...”*** Proverbs 16:7, ***“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”***

III. The Altitude of Humility and Prayer. Daniel 1:11-14 (NLT)

When one is willing to stand for the Lord in spite of the consequences of society, he will find the power and presence of God to raise his altitude! Luke 14:11 (NKJV), ***“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be abased.”*** God raised Daniel’s altitude to the point that in:

vs. 11 – He was able to **SPEAK** up.

vss. 12-13 – He was able to **STAND** up.

vs. 14 – He was **SANCTIONED**.

...all because of his uncompromising commitment of humility and prayer!

IV. The Assurance of Humility and Prayer. Daniel 1:15-17 (NLT)

Because of Daniel’s stand, God gave him the assurance of His:

A. Favor physically. vss. 15-16

B. Favor intellectually and spiritually. vs. 17

V. The Application of Humility and Prayer. Matthew 16:16-18

Jesus teaches the real application of humility and prayer through His teachings on fasting with His disciples. When a believer is seeking God’s will and humbles themselves through fasting and prayer, it should be done only to impress God and not man. What God sees in secret, He will reward openly. A lesson for us all in the stewardship of humility and prayer.

Closing:

Beloved, would you and I dare to be a Daniel? The hymn writer wrote: **“Dare to be a Daniel; dare to stand alone! Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!”**

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Looking Ahead: February 8, 2015 Luke 10:25-34

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.