

“DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART”

(Daniel 1:8-21)

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

II. PERSONAL INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUR JUDEANS

III. THE ABSTENTION OF DANIEL AND HIS THREE FRIENDS

A. Daniel's Purpose to Not Defile Himself (1:8-16)

1. Daniel made a determined decision to not _____ his principles and faithfulness to God by allowing himself to be _____ with the king's food. (1:8a)

2. The problem with the king's food was twofold...

a. The meat offered to them may have been from animals that were not _____ according to the Law of Moses.

b. Undoubtedly the meat and wine had already been _____ to pagan _____, and to eat and drink of the elements would only acknowledge that they truly were gods.

* Do you practice situational ethics, where your principles are up for negotiations?

3. The way Daniel handled this difficult situation reveals not only a godly _____ in wanting to do what was right, but also sound _____ and common sense. (1:8b)

4. Thankfully the Lord had _____ when it came to the chief of the eunuchs, because he _____ with Daniel and his situation. (1:9)

5. Even though the chief of the eunuch's literal _____ was on the line, he was open to considering Daniel's intriguing _____ plan. (1:10-14)

6. In order for this man in authority to do this, it speaks very highly of the way Daniel _____ himself and _____ his plan in a logical manner.

7. A few things to be mindful of regarding a believer's character...
 - a. Christian character is _____ just _____ to do the right thing, because even the unbeliever can muster that.

 - b. Christian character is cooperating with the _____ of the new nature, and relying on the _____ and wisdom from the Holy Spirit.

 - c. Christian character is based on the _____ of _____, which is then evidenced in divine _____, values, and one's _____ convictions.

8. At the end of the ten day agreement, Daniel and his Judean companions _____ than the rest of the young men who were eating the king's food. (1:15-16)

B. The Four Judeans Honored Before the King (1:17-21)

1. After three years of hard work and the Lord _____ their _____ study; God gave Daniel the _____ ability to interpret dreams and visions. (1:17)

2. Fresh out of school, they had their first interview with their future boss, and by the _____ of _____, King Nebuchadnezzar was very impressed. (1:18-20)

* How can you apply these truths in your own life?