



The Daniel Dilemma

Big Idea

Pastor Chris - 4

We're back to our series called "**The Daniel Dilemma**" to teach us **how to stand firm and love well in a culture of compromise**. Walking through our daily lives, it can feel like we are constantly battered with competing messages through our televisions, radios, social media, and even our friends and family. The fact is - the enemy has an agenda and uses culture in an effort to influence the way we think and feel. Each of us should answer this question: **Will I change the world, or will the world change me?** The question for the church is similar: Will the church be impacted by the culture or will it be an agent of change for the culture?

Pastor Chris used the story from Daniel 5 when the king of Babylon threw a huge, wild party during which they dishonored and mocked God while praising their false gods. "Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace... And the king saw the hand as it wrote. Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together." (ESV) Three important applications are **1) Honor God and worship only Him, 2) Everyone will someday bend their knee before Jesus Christ, and 3) the only way we can be an agent of change in the world around us is to live by the power of the Holy Spirit**. Many in today's culture worship leisure, pleasure and comfort. Let's instead live like Daniel: "A man...who has **the spirit of the holy gods in him**. In the time of your father, he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods."

Discussion Questions

- Read Daniel 5:1-6. What caused the writing on the wall and what was the king's response? What might have been your response in that moment if you were there?
- What has your attention most of the time?
- What does Philippians 2:9-10 say that everybody will do?
- One of Pastor Chris' sons said to him, "I can't do what you're asking me to do." What couldn't he do? Have you ever felt the same way? What was that like? Discuss this.
- What does Romans 8:8-11 say that explains what Pastor Chris' son meant?
- Discuss the struggle between living by the power of your flesh versus the power of the Spirit.

Prayer Focus

Praise God today and humble yourself before Him. Acknowledge that He is the only one who deserves our worship. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to live humbly and grow in wisdom so that you can represent Him well in all that you do.

Next Steps

Take another step to know the person of the Holy Spirit. Make regular communication with Him a part of your daily life. Throughout your day, share your thoughts, desires, and feelings with Him, and seek Him through His Word. Then yield to His direction in your life as He speaks to you.

Leader Tip

Encourage your Group to be aware of the Holy Spirit leading and speaking to them. Discuss with the group any fears or misconceptions that might be holding them back from a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.