



The Daniel Dilemma

Big Idea

Pastor Curt - 5

We continued the series called "The Daniel Dilemma" to teach us how to stand firm and love well in a culture of compromise. 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?

What does God look like? "This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord." **Ezekiel 1:28** Pastor Curt shared with us the Bible's description of God and how we can reflect God's glory through four qualities described by four faces of God. The ox represents being a **servant**. The man represents being **loving**. The eagle represents being worthy of **respect**. The lion represents being **bold**. **BIG THOUGHT:** If I looked like them, that would help me to **reflect** who He is. Then, I could be the person God can use to change the world. People would be drawn to the godly qualities of serving, love, respect, and boldness.

PC shared a video of a couple's journey of faith. They described a miracle that happened in their life and then later fell back into a "Sunday morning only version of Christianity and we stayed in that rut for years." God got their attention using three big challenges and they responded to Him with their "Yes." Their saying "Yes" to God was the step for God to show up and show off through their lives. It's time for you to take your Next Step and say "Yes" to God and the Next Step that He has prepared for you.

Discussion Questions

- Read 2 Corinthians 3: 16-17 in several translations.] Once we turn to God, He removes our veil and heaven opens for a personal experience with Him. In truth, our "veils" take on many forms: busyness, social obligations, excessive work, un-confessed sin, etc. What is your veil? What do you need to remove it and turn your face toward God?
- Daniel distinguished himself by exceptional qualities and so created great favor with the king. Of the exceptional qualities we discussed today, which one appeals to you the most? Why? How might you work to develop the other qualities?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to help you to begin to develop exceptional qualities that impact and influence others like Daniel. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open doors for you to begin to influence your family, your work, your friends and ask Him to give you wisdom to use that personal influence to make a difference in the lives of others.

Next Steps

Think about before you became a believer. Since the greatest proof that Jesus is Lord is not our intellectual reasoning but our changed lives, what would you now say to unbelievers about Christ's power to transform your life? How would you share with them the same hope and change you have experienced?

Leader Tip

Encourage your Group to step into this time of sabbath for Groups in order to rest and recharge for the coming year. Pray for your Group to enjoy the Christmas season while seeking what Next Step the Lord has for them. Pray that the Holy Spirit would impress on some of your Group to start another Group when we relaunch in February.