# Dare To Be Like Daniel

**Jesse LaRue** · Daniel 1

## INTRODUCTION

- So Daniel is in the service of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, and he serves all seventy years the Israelites are in captivity.
- These were youths who were surrounded by pagan influences. They were surrounded by people who had no interests in Jehovah God.
- We need help learning how God's people should live as exiles in the world that is not their home. We are going to have to stand and dare to be different from the world around us.

## 1 Be Different in What You Think Is Important

**Daniel 1:4; Daniel 1:15–20; Matthew 6:33**

- Nebuchadnezzar ordered his officials to teach these Hebrew captives the literature and language of the Chaldeans.
- He wanted them to conform. He wanted them to look and act and talk and eat just like everyone else in his kingdom.
- But it becomes wrong when it conflicts with the word and the will of God.
- The world is going to tell us that our academics, our learning, our looks, our schooling, our jobs. Those are the most important things.
- If we conclude that what is spiritual, what is godly, what is holy, is most important in our lives, then all those other things are going to take care of themselves.
- Matthew 6 and verse 33. Seek first the kingdom of God. And all these things will be added to you.

## 2 Be Different in Whose Name You Wear

**1 Peter 4:12–19; 2 Timothy 3:10–17**

- But he couldn't change who they were. Because they wore the name of Israelite. Much like we wear the name of Christian.
- We cannot be ashamed to wear the name of Christ.
- Without Christ, we are nothing. Don't be ashamed to wear his name.
- If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed. But let him glorify God in that name.
- Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed.

## 3 Be Different in How We Make Our Decisions

**Proverbs 1:7; James 3:15–17; Daniel 1:8**

- Proverbs chapter 1 tells us that we ought to go to the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- The world's wisdom is earthly, it is sensual, it is demonic. But the wisdom that is from above. That is pure. That is right.
- But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine that he drank.
- It's a whole lot easier to say no when you already know you're going to say no.
- We cannot wait until the moment of testing to make up our mind, to purpose in our hearts if we're going to serve God or not.

## 4 Situational Ethics Is False

**1 Peter 2:9**

- Situational ethics. That just basically means that what's right and wrong, it just depends on your situation.
- Situational ethics is false. That God's word is inerrant. God's word is still relevant. And God's word does not change.
- God's word doesn't change based on the situation. When we make up our mind about something, don't let people or circumstances change it.
- We are called out of this world to be a peculiar people. A people for God's own possession, Peter writes in 1 Peter chapter 2 and verse 9.
- We have to be different, not just from the world, but from the world who says that they are Christians.

THE CHALLENGE

Like Daniel. Dare to be different than the world around you. If you haven't been doing that faithfully, I ask you, why not?

MY NOTES