

All things work together for good.. there is always cost involved when we take stock; re-evaluate where we are; take account of our lives – to be the person God needs me to be take things to the next level. (Key chapters: Daniel 1 & 3)

1. BE A FAITH IMPACTOR

We are all called to lead people to higher places in faith. Daniel's integrity and purity had such impact on the other three that they were prepared for the fiery furnace. Daniel's integrity stood him in such a place where he could be in charge of the 'whole kingdom'

Faith is positive; thinks, talks, walks, acts positive

? Are other people's lives impacted by us – be encouraged to lift another to another level

2. STAY VISION FOCUSED

Nebuchadnezzar took the four young men out of family, out of familiar, out of Jerusalem, out of their way of life; of out how things used to be done, changed their names – everything different. The Babylonian king was hoping that a physical change would create a spiritual shift.

If the four had have focussed on the change (eyes off the Word and God) – the change could have been as massive as unto destruction and idolatry. Can't focus on the change but on the Word and Vision as He has for us.

Key is walking in the power of God; vision unto life. Philippians 3: Paul always kept vision before him; the vision doesn't change; hang on to the promises of God and what He has for us

3. BE PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY

Am I a person of integrity? Daniel 1:8 Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat. The other three were of such integrity that Daniel knew he could speak on their behalf and be secure in it. Integrity breeds security = living life according to the integrity of the Word – no hypocrisy (creates an atmosphere of security)

4. WALK IN HUMILITY

Daniel 3 Neb. Set up golden statue – no matter what the statue itself was, it represented taking something from God and making it an idol (gift, etc) – how quickly this can happen.. seeking the blessing instead of the Blesser; the gift instead of the Giver, etc. When others wouldn't bow down,

Neb got angry. Very easy for pride to come in and want everyone to acknowledge what God has given us – we must keep our eyes on God.

Neb got angry because he wanted people to worship what God had given him. Jesus' example was to weep when people wouldn't receive 'God'.. if we have something from God we must want people to see God; and be thankful for every opportunity to show Him.

5. HONOUR ONE ANOTHER

Romans 12:10 Daniel 3:8-12 Daniel would not bow down to this idol – dubbed in.. See in Daniel 6 that these men were jealous of Daniel being raised up – they were out to get him even though they owed their lives to him; to break his spirit (by killing his friends).. Romans 12:10 – speaks of honour;

of preferring and lifting others up; speaking good things; preferring others above yourself and the blessing that flows from that. God exalts the humble.

6. BE IMMOVABLE

Daniel 3 When Neb found out they wouldn't bow – his countenance changed.. See v16-18
Neb saw 'one like Son of God'.. Revelation.. of Jesus Himself in the midst.. because three people
were immovable the miraculous was possible and seen.. God came into the midst.

People will come to see what God doing in our midst. V1-6