Purposing to Serve

Greg Kline · Daniel 1:1–21

INTRODUCTION

- But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine that he drank.
- This morning I want to talk about purposing to serve. And to do so, I want to think about a case study of Daniel.
- I think if we follow the steps that Daniel took in this exact chapter, I think we can learn a lot about how to grow ourselves in the service of God.

1 Resolve Within Ourselves to Serve God

Daniel 1:8; Matthew 6:21; Matthew 7:24–26

- First and foremost, we must resolve within ourselves to serve God.
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock.
- You have to know what the words are, though. That takes a resolve. That means I have to decide these issues before I come to them.
- I won't take a job and find out the church situation second. I will know what is best to serve God first.
- But Daniel had decided before he got there, he was going to serve God. And we must have that resolve. And that takes knowing the word.

2 Have a Plan to Serve God

Psalm 15:1–5; Daniel 1:9–12

- He had a plan to serve God.
- That's not serving God. That's serving yourself and serving God when it's convenient.
- O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart?
- First of all, we have to know not to do those things, but second of all, we have to have a plan to do that.
- We need to have that attitude that says, I know what God expects, and I will do it, period.
- It's easy to have these biblical principles. That just takes studying the word, although we struggle with that. But to have a specific plan, that's hard.

3 Be Persistent in Striving to Do What Is Right

Luke 18; Luke 9:23–26

- We need to be persistent in striving to do what is right.
- If you examine the text in Daniel chapter 1, he did not receive his answer initially.

- We can't just give up. We don't just say, well, this plan didn't work. Maybe it would have taken a second plan.
- If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
- Daniel denied himself when he could have easily gone with the flow.
- We have to take up our cross daily. This is an everyday action.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Will you purpose it in your heart with me? Will you resolve this morning to not defile yourselves with anything that the world can offer?**

MY NOTES