

I. A Commitment Expressed - Dan. 1:8-10

1. "Resolved" not to defile himself (**verse 8**)
 - set his heart
 - set it upon his heart
 - a careful decision
- Rea -probably considered the possible ways it might go "south"
2. "Defile" dietary laws
 - Leviticus 11
- Rea -the food laws and the Babylonian names both are cultural "tainting"
3. "Royal food" and "wine"
 - it would mean a compromise of his religious convictions
- Rea -walking the line between doing things that "compromise" and those that do not is difficult
- food offered to other gods
4. The "official" (**verse 9**)
 - chief eunuch
 - Daniel had won "favor" with him
- Rea -he had won his respect and won his "ear"
5. His fear - that these would look worse than the others (**verse 10**)
 - the king would have his head
- Rea -Daniel's courage affected others as well
- Rea -Daniel was a leader for the other youth as well
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. What difference would a little food make?
 2. What are the issues you would "approach the king" (or your boss) about?
 3. He and the others are far from home... who would ever know?

II. A Test Passed - Dan. 1:11-16

1. He approaches the guard who is over him (**verse 11**)
 - but not just Daniel - the three other youth as well
2. Please test your servants for ten days (**verse 12**)
 - note that he phrased it as a test period - only 10 days
 - note that he called himself "servant"
3. The diet - vegetables and water
 - a vegetarian diet
4. Then "compare" (**verse 13**)
 - there should be some "difference" between God's people and all others
- Rea -he puts the decision in the hands of the official - then treat them accordingly - Daniel "helped him" to test them
5. He tested them (for ten days) (**verse 14**)
 - this is their witness while they are in Babylon
- Rea -this physical success story would catch the eye of the official and the king
6. Then the official examined them (**verse 15**) - they were healthier
7. The official takes away the king's food and gave them vegetables instead (**verse 16**)

-God gave them a small opportunity to witness while in a foreign country

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Who would know if they just ate the king's meat?
2. Does this small thing really matter that much?
3. The eating of the king's food "meant" something - what did it mean?
-not eating the king's food "meant" something - what did it mean?
4. One lesson - if you honor God in a wilderness country God will give you good success

III. A Recognized Difference - Dan. 1:17-21

1. God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning
-further Daniel could understand visions and dreams (**verse 17**)
- Rea -they were faithful with food so God gave them something better "knowledge" and "understanding"
2. Daniel's understanding of visions and dreams foreshadows the rest of the book - see chapter 2
3. The chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar (**verse 18**)
- Rea -another test
-examining the fruit of their choices
4. He talked with them (**verse 19**) - none were equal to them
 - A. Better than all the kings enchanters and magicians
 - Rea B. They were faithful with food, and look how God rewarded them
 - C. Though they were far from home they were elevated in the king's service
5. Better in every area of wisdom and understanding
6. These Israelites were "better" (**verse 20**)
-verse 15 - compared
-verse 19 - they stand out
-verse 20 - they outshine all the others
- Rea We are known by our fruit - what a great witness for their Lord!
7. Daniel's tenure - till the first year of Cyrus (**verse 21**)
- Rea -plots Daniel's ministry in history
8. When we trust God we find wisdom and understanding
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. "Just food laws?"
 2. Where did Daniel find the courage to ask the king's "official?"
 3. How did Daniel know that they would be better off in ten days?
 4. Discuss the importance in being faithful in very little things!