

Sermon Series: Finding True  
Courage

**COURAGE TO STAY THE COURSE**  
**DANIEL 1:1-7; SELECTED**  
**SCRIPTURES**

# I. Two Events

- ◆ *The Crash (Daniel 1:1-2)*
- ◆ *"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god."*

# The Crash (cont'd)

- ◆ Sometimes our worlds crash, and so do our dreams.
- ◆ When a person's life crashes, it always kicks in cause and effect.

# *The Change (Daniel 1:3-5 NIV)*

- ◆ *"Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.<sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. "*

# Daniel 1:6-7 NIV

- ◆ *<sup>6</sup> Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.”*

# The Change (cont'd)

- ◆ Daniel in Hebrew means "God is my Judge." It was changed to Belteshazzar, which means "whom Baal favors."
- ◆ Hananiah means "God is gracious." He became known as Shadrach, which means "illuminated by Shad [a sun god]."

# The Change (cont'd)

- ◆ Mishael means “who is like God? God is great.” They tagged him with Meshach, which means “who is like Shach [a love goddess].”
- ◆ Finally, Azariah means “God is my helper,” but the tenured university faculty came up with Abednego, which means “the servant of Nego [a fire god].”

## II. Three Traits

- ◆ *Humility, Hope, and Trust*
- ◆ <sup>1</sup> *My heart is not proud, LORD,  
my eyes are not haughty;  
I do not concern myself with great matters  
or things too wonderful for me.*
- ◆ <sup>2</sup> *But I have calmed and quieted myself,  
I am like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child I am content.*
- ◆ <sup>3</sup> *Israel, put your hope in the LORD  
both now and forevermore.*

(Psalm 131:1-3 NIV)

# Essential Trait #1-*Humility*

- ◆ There are two ways we can depart from humility. The first is arrogance.
- ◆ V.1 of Psalm 131 is a description of *balanced humility*.
- ◆ Proverbs 4:23 (NIV), "*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*"

## Romans 6:3-6 (NIV)

- ◆ *"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

## Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

- ◆ *6" We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."*

# Humility (cont'd)

- ◆ Three principles here that helped Daniel keep his balance with humility and I believe will help us do the same:
- ◆ *Know who you are*
- ◆ *Know what God has given to you*
- ◆ *Stay in your sphere*

# Humility (cont'd)

- ◆ *Know who you are*
- ◆ The plumb line on humility is this: don't think too highly of yourself-and don't think too lowly, either.
- ◆ *Know what God has given you*
- ◆ You don't have all the gifts mentioned in Romans 12:3-8. You're part of the body of Christ, and He has distributed gifts to each of us. Some of us have more gifts than others-but everyone has a gift.

# Humility (cont'd)

- ◆ *Stay in Your Sphere*
- ◆ You've been given gifts. Stay with them. Develop them, work hard, and do your work to the glory of God.
- ◆ Example : King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:25-21)

# Essential Trait #2-Trust

- ◆ Psalm 131:2 :
- ◆ *“But I have calmed and quieted myself,  
I am like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child I am content.”*
- ◆ No matter what our age, however, God is continually weaning us from places or positions where we have found comfort, peace, security, nourishment, or affirmation.

# 1 Kings 17:8-11 (NIV)

- ◆ *<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: <sup>9</sup> "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." <sup>10</sup> So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" <sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."*

# 1 Kings 17:12-14 (NIV)

- ◆ <sup>12</sup> *"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."*
- ◆ <sup>13</sup> *Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.'"*

# 1 Kings 17:15-16 (NIV)

- ◆ *<sup>15</sup> She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. <sup>16</sup> For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.*

# Essential Trait #3-Hope

- ◆ The greatest blessings in your life will come out of your greatest disappointments.
- ◆ Daniel's hope was completely in God.
- ◆ That's the Christian life.

# Invitation

- ◆ Do you find yourself in a humiliating defeat?
- ◆ Are you being weaned off something that you are trying to hold onto?
- ◆ Let go and trust God. In the process you will find true courage.