

(1). "Living for Jesus...O HOW TOUGH!"

Introd:- (1). Listen to this subject..TOPIC. IS IT?
How you find it? We sing "O how sweet"..Or does it go sour sometimes? What about workaday world? Business? On farm? Losses? Opposed by evil men..ears assailed by blasphemy, dirt..tempted by demons, devils..oppressed..?
(2). I think we will do better to face facts. Living for Jesus is like exper. of both Ezekiel and John..as told to eat the book.."In my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter." Bitter sweet!
Sweet experiences..of sins forgiven..load of guilt gone..conscious of home in heaven..fellowship here on earth with people of God..nourishment of Word of God...
BUT sometimes it's a tough life..living in ungodly world. I spent years in work-a-day world..like many of you...
Thankful for experience..but I KNOW IT IS SOMETIMES TOUGH.
How do you men live in it? How did I? How can we best..?

I. Today I want propose diff. session..not a sermon..but free and easy Bible discussion.

(a). I know some laymen who get brownd off bec. in church have to listen to pulpit monologue..and would like bit of dialogue..a talk-back system. Often impracticable... but let's try it here..see where get to.

(b). Follow with own Bible..Daniel 1. vs. by vs. for while
Let me read a vs..then suggest question or two.

vs.1. What FIRST thing learned? A DATE!..in history.
What date? Begin of captiv. of Judah to Babylon. 1st yr. of Nebuchad..(Jer. 25:1). For how long? 70 yrs. (Jer.29:10). Why? Bec. failed 70 times to keep sabbatical year..let land rest..(II Chron.36:21). Immed. we see setting of Bk. of Dan..A godly man in an evil world..70 yr Story begins here with confrontation bet. two rulers..

(c). Now vs. 2. What see here? First, sovereignty of God. What basic reason God did this? APOSTASY. Yes, man had free will..and chose to stray from God. Then God moved.. to work out His will. What else in this vs? Temple vessels.."part"..not Ark of Cov...???...What Neb. do with them? Why? Although wicked, violent man..recog. sacredness of some things..Not like Belshazzar and sacrilegious feast
NOW AT ONCE SEE THAT ISSUES OF THIS BOOK WILL BE RELIGIOUS
Apparent triumph of falsity over right. c/f today's world
How can a man live in a tough world like that? Daniel?

II. Want to refer to 5 illus. in this book..principles...

(a). Try make brief. FIRST:- Daniel in the university of Babylon. vs. 3-5. O.K. Good educ..But what Neb.

really trying to do? Make into Chaldeans! vs. 7 New names!
AND THIS EVIL WORLD TRIES THAT CONSTANTLY..Absorb..decovert!
But Daniel faced deeper issue. Matter of food. No Kosher.
per. pork..God's WORD plain. What do? vs.8..now the glory of
vs. 9 "But Daniel..Now God." And God honoured..vs.17...& 21.
First principle of how to live in tough world..OBEY THE WORD
OF GOD NO MATTER WHAT..especially in matter of SEPARATION
Nev. mind what happens. God will take care of that.

(b). SECOND:- Story of other three men..Hananiah, Mishael,
and Azariah. chap. 3. Well known. Great image of gold set up
as symbol of Bab. solidarity..unity..All called to swear
patriotic loyalty. BUT vs.16-18. Again loyalty to Word of
God...but more involved this time. Personal security at stake.
Big word of our day..SECURITY for self. And too often men
will go with crowd to obtain it. This was a turning from
idolatry..the worship of something less than God Himself.
And in N.T..Col. 3:5/ "Covetousness which is idolatry"/

These men laid all on line for God. How much do we?
(c). Third principle..also religious matter..chaps. 2 and 4.
Neb. had a dream..mysteriously he forgot it..yet knew important
Wise men failed. BUT Daniel, given gift by God..undertook
to declare meaning..and did. Chap. 4 Neb. dreamed again..
remembered it, but found no interpret. until Daniel came
..interpreted. Now note two things. 2:28a, 30a What cha. ?
Now 4:19 What here? Here is great principle of living in
tough world..WITNESS TO THE TRUTH..BUT DO IT WITH EVIDENT
HUMILITY AND DEEP COMPASSION. No cold, hard orthodoxy..with
boast of how much know.

(d). I take FOURTH from chap. 5. And this is not easy one.
Belshazzar made feast..wine, women, song..and sacrilege.
Temple vessels brought..to drink in..to gods of gold, silver,
brass, iron, wood, stone. Fingers appeared..wrote by "candlesti
"Mene, mene,tekel upharsin"..Unknown lang. And again Dan.
came to declare Word of God..BUT THIS TIME it was message of
doom.. vs.25-28..and came to pass. vs.30. That's a really
tough assignment! Ever face it? Tell a man he's going to hell
?? Sinner. Under wrath of God..Doomed..Lost??? MUST BE DONE

(e). I come to FIFTH..chap. 6. Dan. in lion's den. Why?
Bec. of political plot against him..or rather relig. plot to
get rid of him as political ruler..president. No prayer
to anyone except King..30 days. "King plays God for month".
What do? Save up all prayer requests? Why not? You?
Dan. never wavered..vs.10 What a character here described!
"prayed and gave THANKS". Refused be unthankful to God for
mth! This was UNCOMPROMISING FAITHFULNESS..plus PRAYER LIFE.

Conclus:- Now come back to where began.

How can a X'n man live successfully..effectively..godly in tough world of sin, evil?

I commend to you these 5 things:-

LIVE TRUE TO THE BOOK..know it..follow it no matter what, and espec. in its call to live a separated life..from evil

REFUSE TO WORSHIP ANYTHING BUT GOD..not even self-security

..spending life in covetousness for self.

WITNESS TO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD..HUMBLY..WITH COMPASSION

TELL IT AS IT IS..EVEN THE BAD NEWS..to warn all men.

LIVE AN UNCOMPROMISING LIFE IN PRAYER TO GOD ALONE.

Daniel did it. And God never failed him.

The old Sun. School song said it well, didn't it?

"Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone. Dare to have a purpose firm, And dare to make it know".

God give us Daniels..who will live for God in these last dark, tough days. "BE STRONG AND OF A GOOD COURAGE".

Meadow Lake, SK - CMA - Mar. 8/73

Champion - Jan 21/73

GMA Men's Conf - Pioneer Lodge - Jan. 13/73

Edmonton CMA (Beulah) Jan 7/73 - B. Bland