

Sermon Teaching Notes for May 7, 2017

WHEN YOUR BELIEFS ARE BELITTLED – DANIEL 1:18-20

SERMON TEACHING SERIES: UNSHAKEABLE!

²⁶ When he spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but, "Next time," he says, "I will not only shake the earth but the heavens too." ²⁷ By this he means that he will sift out everything without solid foundations so that only unshakable things will be left. *Hebrews 12:26-27 (TLB)*

⁸ Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper. *Proverbs 19:8 (TEV)*

¹³ Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life—guard it well. *Proverbs 4:13 (TEV)*

⁵ Being wise is better than being strong; yes, knowledge is more important than strength. *Proverbs 24:5 (TEV)*

➤ Daniel's Third Test: Challenges to His Faith

³ Then King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz, his chief officer, to bring some of the Israelite men into his palace. He wanted them to be from important families, including the family of the king of Judah. ⁴ King Nebuchadnezzar wanted only young Israelite men who had nothing wrong with them. They were to be handsome and well educated, capable of learning and understanding, and able to serve in his palace. Ashpenaz was to teach them the language and writings of the Babylonians.

⁵ The king gave the young men a certain amount of food and wine every day, just like the food he ate. The young men were to be trained for three years, and then they would become servants of the king of Babylon. *Daniel 1:3-5 (NCV)*

¹⁷ God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. *Daniel 1:17a (NLT)*

¹⁸ When the three-year training period was completed, the superintendent brought all the young men to the king for oral exams, as he had been ordered to do. ¹⁹ King Nebuchadnezzar had long talks with each of them, and none of them impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So, they were put on his regular staff of advisors. ²⁰ And in all matters requiring information and balanced judgment, the king found these young men's advice ten times better than that of all the skilled magicians and wise astrologers in his realm. *Daniel 1:18-20 (TLB)*

HOW TO EXCEL IN YOUR EDUCATION (and not lose your faith)

1. Decide _____

⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore, he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. *Daniel 1:8 (ESV)*

⁷ To have knowledge, you must first have reverence for the LORD. Stupid people have no respect for wisdom and refuse to learn. *Proverbs 1:7 (TEV)*

2. Never _____

⁸ Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper. *Proverbs 19:8 (TEV)*

⁵ A wise man is mightier than a strong man. Wisdom is mightier than strength. *Proverbs 24:5 (TLB)*

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)*

⁸ Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning will succeed. *Proverbs 19:8 (NCV)*

- **KNOWLEDGE:** *information gained from education or experience*
- **WISDOM:** *seeing and responding from God's viewpoint*

3. Steep _____

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. *Joshua 1:8 (ESV)*

✓ *I must _____ the truth, in order to _____ the lies.*

¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way. *Psalms 119:104 (ESV)*

¹⁴ A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash. *Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)*

4. Choose _____

³³ Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." *1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)*

⁷ Stay away from fools, because they can't teach you anything. *Proverbs 14:7 (NCV)*

³ Even as he walks along the road, the fool lacks sense and shows everyone how stupid he is. *Ecclesiastes 10:3 (NIV)*

5. Stay _____

➤ *All three are essential for input, output and support*

²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. *Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)*

¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. *1 Peter 2:15-16 (NKJV)*

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. *Psalms 1:1-2 (ESV)*

6. Remember _____

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)*