

WHEN YOU'RE PRESSURED TO CONFORM – DAN. 1:8-19

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)

³ Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart. *Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)*

- Before every blessing there _____

⁴ Instead, we always speak as God wants us to, because he has judged us worthy to be entrusted with the Good News. We do not try to please people, but to please God, who tests our motives. *1 Thessalonians 2:4 (TEV)*

- God _____ us with stress before He _____ us with success

⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 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 1:5, 8 (ESV)*

➤ DANIEL'S FIRST TEST SHOWS ... FOUR QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN YOUR LIFE

1. _____ : DANIEL NEVER FORGOT WHO HE WAS

⁸ But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself... *Daniel 1:8a (NASB)*

² Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect. *Romans 12:2 (TEV)*

2. _____ : DANIEL CONTROLLED HIS EGO AND APPETITE

⁸ But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank... *Daniel 1:8 (NASB)*

¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. *Romans 6:13 (NLT)*

3. _____ : DANIEL WAS WILLING TO STAND ALONE

² You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you bear witness at a trial so as to side with a multitude to pervert justice. *Exodus 23:2 (AMP)*

¹³ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. *1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB)*

4. _____ : DANIEL WAS TACTFUL WITH AUTHORITY

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. ⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink: for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So, you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days: let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. *Daniel 1:8-16 (ESV)*

¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore, they stood before the king. *Daniel 1:18-19 (ESV)*

HOW TO MAKE A CASE TO AUTHORITIES

1. DEVELOP A REPUTATION FOR _____ PR. 22:29
2. BE _____ NOT _____ PR. 25:6
3. DON'T BE _____ OR _____ 2 COR. 4:2
4. APPEAL TO THEIR _____ AND THEIR _____ DAN. 1:12-13
5. CHOOSE THE RIGHT _____ PR. 16:21
6. _____ IF THEY REJECT YOUR APPEAL ROM. 8:28

WHAT GAVE DANIEL THE COURAGE TO TAKE A STAND?

¹⁴ "Do not worship any other god, because I, the LORD, tolerate no rivals. ¹⁵ Do not make any treaties with the people of the country, because when they worship their pagan gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you to join them, and you will be tempted to eat the food they offer to their gods. *Exodus 34:14-15 (TEV)*

¹ Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise. *Proverbs 20:1 (NASB)*

¹¹ Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine. ¹² They have harps and lyres at their banquets, tambourines and flutes and wine, but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD, no respect for the work of his hands. *Isaiah 5:11-12 (NIV)*

¹⁴ Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? ¹⁵ Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? *2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (MSG)*