



CHAPTER 3 – “Conflicts of Conscience”

September 20, 2023

Identify the Problem

Just as Esther was raised up for “such a time as this”, we have been put in the community or workplace we are in for a purpose and for this time. It’s key that we remember this because you or someone you know is quite possibly in a work environment where it’s no longer acceptable for you to just tolerate the evil around you, now you must celebrate it or be ostracized or even fired.

We are now in a time where people have to go to “sensitivity” training courses and be indoctrinated with what secular culture calls equity and diversity, which is really code for being brainwashed into believing things like homosexuality, pedophilia, bestiality, and transgenderism are not only normal, but good.

Let us explore how Daniel and his friends actually faced the very same things around 600 B.C. and what they did in the face of it. Remember, they were taken captive by the Babylonians. What we know about this people group is that they sacrificed babies to false gods, dashed them against rocks, made their young men into eunuchs (castration) and dressed them like little girls while using them as sex slaves, and they turned people into skin suits at will amongst many other occultic practices.

It was against this backdrop that Daniel and his friends sought to honor God Almighty and even wanted the best for this wicked king. Dr. Lutzer reminds us in this chapter that when God judges a nation, the righteous will suffer alongside the wicked.

Read Daniel 1:1-7

What happened to Daniel and his three friends at the hands of the Babylonians? Capture as much as you can here.

How is this similar to what is happening to believers in our society today?

Those are just some of the problems we've been able to identify. Let's look at some solutions.

Discover the Solution

To start with, we must be absolutely resolute in our commitment to follow Jesus regardless of the cost. This was the case for Daniel and his three friends.

Read Daniel 1:8-9

Why was the king's food the line in the sand that Daniel and his friends wouldn't cross?

What does this teach us about lines we won't cross? How do we determine what those lines are? (Think through again how Daniel drew his line, there are some great principles here.)

Apply the Solution

There are at least three things we can apply here from the book of Daniel as well as principles from the book we are studying. Here they are...

1. We must be absolutely sure theologically, mentally, and emotionally that God is sovereign and that He will have the final victory over Satan and those of this world.

Write out the following verses by hand, commit them memory, and be assured of them.

- 1 Samuel 17:47 _____

- Joshua 1:9 _____

- Philippians 2:9-11 _____

2. We must have deep and abiding convictions when it comes to what our line is for being in the world but not of it. Make an attempt at writing out what your convictions are in regards to honoring Jesus with your life. Include things like places you will or won't go, forms of entertainment you will or won't engage in, events you will or won't attend, mandates you will or won't abide by at work or in the community, etc.

3. We must resolve to follow Jesus regardless of the cost. Read and commit to memory **Daniel 1:8-9** and then commit to doing as Daniel did here. List some areas in your life that Jesus may be calling you to that are hard.

Conclusion

Let's listen together to the reasons that college students, as well as many adults, are walking away from Jesus and the church.

Read **The Church In Babylon** pp. 85-87.

How do we keep this from happening in our homes and churches today? It comes from discipling, equipping, and training ourselves and future generations. In lesson 10 of our time together we will cover the specifics of how to train ourselves and others in some of the essential doctrines of the faith such as theology, Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, anthropology, eschatology, and a bunch more.

Recommended Resources

(The following resources are invaluable when it comes to digging deeper into the topics at hand just discussed in the previous section. The recommendation would be to read one book a month so as to have time to absorb it but not forget the material by taking too long to read through it.)

NCC Bible and Book Reading Plan (nccabq.org)

Your Daily Walk by Walk Thru the Bible (amazon.com or christianbook.com)

Essential Christian Doctrine by John MacArthur

Essentials (the study can be found at grace-bible.org/essentials)