***“Getting To The Heart Of God’s Story”***

Week 18

Daniel 1-3;6; Jer. 29-31

 “Are You Resolved To Live For Christ?” – Dan.1-3;6

1. ***Stand out!* Are you resolved to stand out as a Christian in not defiling yourself by how you live? Dan. 1:8**

Dan. 1:8   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.

Mark 7:20 “And then he added, “It is what comes from inside that defiles you. 21 For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”

1. ***Stand up!* Are you resolved to stand up in a culture bowing down to other gods? Dan. 3:16-18**

Dan. 3:16   Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Matt. 5:14   “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

1. ***Stand firm!* Are you resolved to stand firm in fearing nothing in pursuing your love for the LORD?**

Dan. 6:10   When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. “

Matt.22:37 “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

**Application:**

1. Notice the tact and kindness Daniel used with his superior. Notice his passion to not defile himself in this new culture. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. Peter reminds Christians that they are foreigners in this world. We are part of God’s kingdom in heaven. What is Peter calling out Christians to do? How is that tied to the passage on the facing page from Mark 7:20-22? How can we help one another from being defiled as followers of Jesus Christ?
2. What peer pressure did you face growing up? What peer pressure do you face now? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego took a risk standing up for their religious convictions. They paid a price for it, as well. List some areas where Christians are tempted to compromise their faith? How can we stand up to be the light in the world that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 5:14-16? What is one area in your life right now where you need to stand up for Christ where your peers seem to be bowing down to other gods?
3. In Dan. 6:10, please notice the phrase “as he had done previously”. Daniel did not just pray in the present crisis. Daniel had a regular habit of praying. How can we deepen our love for God (Matt. 22:37) so that we will want to pray regularly? Perhaps you would pray with me that, like Daniel, our opponents might not find anything against us except our passion for God and our resolve to stand firm in our faith.