ASPIRING TO BE BRIGHT IN THE MARKETPLACE

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY November 24, 2019

"You are the light of the world...let your good deeds shine out for all to see..."

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

THREAD: Daniel <u>set himself up</u> to succeed and he shined bright because of it. He took control of what was in his control...*he honored God with it.*

Daniel <u>accepted/surrendered</u> to his circumstances. (*This is my starting point...God and myself will make it better.*)
 There is purpose in it all.

2. Daniel served.

Daniel was forced into it, but at some point, Daniel <u>chose</u> to be a servant to his employer.

3. Daniel strived for excellence. (Not perfection)

Daniel 6:1-5 (NLT)

He wasn't double minded...one day IN and the next day OUT...

How do we know?

People, including enemies <u>described</u> him...

6:4 "faithful, responsible, completely trustworthy"

People told his **story** over time.

5:11: "exceptional ability" "solve difficult problems"

People could not speak against his work.

6:4 "Began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs...couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn."

People could not speak against his work ethic.

6:3 "Daniel soon proved himself to be more capable than all the others..." Who are your "others"?

Pay attention to your relationships.

- May not matter to you, but they matter to everyone else.
- Love them.
- 6:21 "Long live the king...I have not wronged you!"

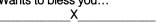
What words describe your work history?

4. God ...

Blessed Daniel.

- "Respect and affection" from his supervisor.
- "Unusual aptitude for understanding" his job description.
- "Special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams."
- King was "impressed"; Daniel and his friends stood out from among all the rest by 10X.

- Placed him in front of kings to speak FOR Him.
- In time would become wealthy as a reward for trusting in the sovereignty of God and serving.
- Wants to bless you...



5. Daniel's employer was asking himself 6 critical questions about him:

- 1. Can/Will you do the job? (Competency talents, gifts, and abilities)
- Will you embrace my vision and my values?
- 3. Can I <u>trust</u> you will do the job/task to the <u>best</u> of your abilities? (*I need to be FREE to do what I NEED to do.*)
- 4. Will you grow so I can give you more? (Many people will not grow beyond their current reality...are you one of those few who will?)
- 5. Do you love my "baby"? (*The owners or highly invested people see this organization as their baby.*)
- 6. Will you represent me well? (Whoever you work for, you speak for.)

Challenge:

- Will I commit to being a bright light in my workplace?
- Will I trust God's sovereignty by accepting my circumstances?
- Will I serve?
- Will I strive for excellence?

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CHAIR TIME TOOLS

This week take a moment to prayerfully ask God to reveal truth to you regarding the following questions:

- 1. Read Daniel Chapters 5 and 6. What do you see as Daniel's attitude in response to his workplace?
- Have you ever struggled with the difference between perfection and excellence? If so, ask God to bring clarity into how you may need to shift your understanding.
- 3. What can you do to be faithful, responsible, and completely trustworthy?
- 4. Last week we asked the question, "What do I need to stop, start, or do better for my employer?" Has the answer changed?