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"You are the light of the world...let your good deeds shine out for all to see..."
Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

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

1. Daniel **accepted/surrendered** 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 **chose** 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 **described** 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...
_____X_____

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

1. **Can/Will** you do the job? (*Competency - talents, gifts, and abilities*)
2. Will you **embrace** my **vision** and my **values**?
3. Can I **trust** you will do the job/task to the **best** 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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www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/humility

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www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/conflict-resolution

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Respect Others—Even if They Haven't Earned It

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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?
2. 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?