

Crucible #3: How Culture Acts as a Crucible

Daniel 1:1-21; 6:1-28

Main Idea: As Christians seek to be disciples in a progressively secular culture, they will encounter complex moral and ethical dilemmas. But this can be a good thing, because it forces us to clarify what we believe and how we will behave, so that we act with conviction.

1. ORIENTATION – The book of Daniel was written so that we will wrestle with how to engage our culture.

- A. The book of Daniel has a unique literary structure. There are 3 different ways to look at it.
- B. The book of Daniel has a unique purpose within the Bible.
- C. Daniel chapters one and six are parallel chapters with high application value for us.

2. SCENE 1, CHAPTER 1: DANIEL IN THE MELTING POT – At the beginning of his career Daniel wrestles with his worldview and his lifestyle.

Daniel 1:1-21

- A. The story
- B. 1st dilemma: worldview – Daniel must clarify what he believes under tremendous pressure.
- C. 2nd dilemma: lifestyle – Daniel must determine how he will live, under tremendous pressure.
- D. The outcome – Daniel gains opportunities for influence.

3. SCENE 2, CHAPTER 6: DANIEL IN THE LION’S DEN – At the end of his career Daniel wrestles with his worldview and his lifestyle again.

Daniel 5:31 –6:28

- A. The story – The Medo-Persians defeat the Babylonians.
- B. 1st dilemma: worldview – Daniel must clarify the object of his hope...God or government.
- C. 2nd dilemma: lifestyle – Daniel must determine how he will live...commitment or compromise.
- D. Outcome – Daniel survives the lion’s den and has a life of influence.

4. SCENE 3: WHAT ABOUT YOU? – The pressures that your culture places upon you (*the crucible*) are a call to change and action.

Daniel 11:32, 12:3

