

Standing Above the Rest

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10 X

Text: Daniel 1:18-20, Daniel 5:11-12

Daniel 1:18-20 - Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore, they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Daniel 5:11-12 - There is a man in your kingdom in whom *is* the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers. Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.”

Daniel 5:12 (NLT) - This man Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, has exceptional ability and is filled with divine knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.

Daniel and his friends were found to be ten times better at dealing with things and answering questions than all the others in the kingdom.

When Daniel was 15 years of age this is what was found of him. When he was 85, he was called to interpret the writing on the wall. Daniel went on a seventy year run as a 10X person. Most people assume that when you are young you are at your finest. But Daniel maintained a vibrant relationship with God that made him valuable to people throughout his entire life and in changing social, political and spiritual environments.

God is raising up people that are ten times better. Not ten times better than you. But people like Daniel and others throughout the Bible who had exceptional character and ability, that clearly stood out from others. Men like Noah. **Genesis 6:9 (NKJV, AMP)**

God is raising up believers in our day who are 10X the competency of the people around them. Today there are people looking for answers and dealing with issues and they need people sent by God who can help. People who can “interpret the writing on the wall”. **Matthew 16:2-3** By reading the writing on the wall Daniel was able to explain what God was saying and what they could do about it.

People like this are rare in the world and they seem to be in short supply in the body of Christ, but they should not be.

- There are several things that made Daniel stand out and **valuable** to the people around him.
- 1) He refused to **defile** himself. **Daniel 1:8** He refused to be like the culture around him that he was forced to be a part of. He **narrowed** his life to please God. **Matthew 7:13-14** Daniel's soul desire was to please God. This made him unique in character and behavior. The reason many Christians are not standouts in the culture they live in is because they are no different from the people around them in character and they just blend in. Christians who are valuable in the Kingdom of God are often accused of being narrow minded, this is simply not true. They have intentionally chosen a narrow way. This simplifies life.
 - 2) Daniel was known as a man **filled** with the Spirit. **Daniel 5:11** People recognize when people have a different kind of Spirit about them. Daniel was surrounded by pagans, and he had reputation for being filled with the Spirit of the Holy God. People notice if we are walking with Jesus. **Acts 4:13** People filled with the Holy Spirit and who walk with Jesus have a way about them that people notice and can see the difference.
 - 3) Daniel was not only filled with the Spirit of the Holy God, but he was also known as a man with an **excellent** spirit. This means that he had a good attitude. He had a can-do attitude. He was a man of integrity and honesty. He chose to make the most of a bad situation while always remaining faithful to God. Excellence is something that excels, goes beyond, predominates. Not only did he have a spirit of excellence and doing things well. He was dominated by the Spirit of God in him not his own desires and reactions. Because he had a good attitude, did things well and treated people with respect, Daniel always rose to the top. The saying is true the cream always rises to the top.
- ~ A true test of a servant is how you respond when you are treated like one.
- 4) Daniel was known as a man of **wisdom**. He wasn't a person who was ruled by his emotion. He was logical, methodical and reasonable. He had knowledge and understanding of a great many things and what he didn't know he was willing to learn. The Bible says that he was filled with **divine** knowledge and understanding and light. **James 3:17-18** There are people who bring the worst out in situations and come from a dark place. Daniel was a ray of hope. The wisdom he possessed from God shed light on situations and enlightened people. Wisdom is knowing what's going on, what needs to be done and how to go about doing it. It is knowledge rightly applied. One of the things that is often overlooked is that Daniel is called a man with exceptional **ability**.

- 5) Daniel could **interpret** dreams. This means that he could see the future and what was coming. Daniel interpreted dreams and so did Joseph. They were able to explain what God was saying to people in the late-night hours. They could explain what was on God's mind and what to do about it. Interpreting dreams means they knew how to go from the idea stage to the doing and **implementing**. **Genesis 41:8-49** People who hear from God and can see the future and know how to prepare for it are rare and valuable. The world is filled with dreamers and visionaries who have no idea how to make the dream a reality.

- 6) Daniel could solve **riddles**. **Proverbs 1:5-7** This means that he was able to deal with **complex** problems and situations that take time figuring out. Things that are hard to understand. A riddle is something that baffles or perplexes. These are things that require you to think them through and work through a myriad of issues, choices, timing and fit. A riddle is a saying or a situation that leaves most people stumped for an answer or a solution; much like King Solomon and the baby with two women who claimed to be his mother. Life is filled with these sorts of things that seem like you can never make a correct or good decision. Daniel could figure out what people were trying to say.

- 7) Daniel was able to explain an **enigma**. An enigma is a difficult problem involving people who don't agree and who don't like one another. It is a person or a thing or a situation that is mysterious, puzzling, hard to define and difficult to understand and to solve. Mystery applies to what cannot be fully understood by reason or less strictly to whatever resists or defies explanation. To explain an enigma means to **untie** the knot and to unravel. An enigma is something that defies logic and reason. There is no seemingly good explanation. There are things happening that don't make sense or add up. There seems to be no answer. Things are happening but no one is sure why or how. An enigma is a problem involving paradox or apparent contradiction. It is a puzzle or a problem that challenges ingenuity for a solution.

The world is full with people who are looking for answers and who are trying to figure things out and solve difficult and complex problems. There are people in leadership, government and communities, education and planning who do not know what to do; they are **desperate**. Think about this, a king or Pharaoh pulled Joseph out of prison because he could interpret dreams. Daniel was both young and old and was a captive in a foreign land, but he was brought out of obscurity because he could read the writing on the wall when others couldn't.

God has a way of bringing His 10X people to the forefront to accomplish His will.

Christians who possess these seven things will always stand out as **better** than other people around them when it comes to dealing with people and difficult situations.