

Daniel: Don't Compromise

You see today, we continue in our series, Lessons for Life from Heroes of the Faith.

We're going to talk about Daniel this morning, and I've titled the message, Don't Compromise.

I read about a New York family that bought a ranch out west where they intended to raise cattle.

Some of their friends came and visited with them and asked if the ranch had a name.

Well, said the would-be cattleman,

I wanted to name it the Bar J Ranch.

But my wife favored Susie Q. One son liked the Flying W, and the other wanted the Lazy Y. So we've decided to call it the Bar J Susie Q Flying W Lazy Y Ranch.

To which his friend said, but where are all the cattle?

And he said, oh, the cattle.

He said, well, none of them survived the branding.

Now, there is a time for compromise, isn't there, in life?

And I'm not suggesting there never is in this message this morning.

But the problem is, if you compromise to appease the culture, if you compromise to please everyone, you'll not survive the branding.

And tragically today, everything in our culture screams to compromise.

Compromise your beliefs.

Compromise your behavior.

Compromise the Scripture.

Compromise your faith.

I read just last week, I guess it was, that a couple of weeks ago, the Chicago public school system announced that they will no longer hire teachers that graduate from

Moody Bible Institute on the grounds that they say before they will re-engage their graduates, Moody must reject its beliefs on marriage and gender, and then they'll start hiring their students again.

The mantra today is that we must make everybody happy, isn't it?

That we must adjust to everybody's opinion, that we must accommodate every idea that is expressed, no matter how perverse or how outrageous it is.

And as a result, one of the most difficult challenges of our age is learning to live by conviction rather than compromise and accommodation.

I read about a hunter who...

He went out in the forest to shoot a bear.

He wanted to make a warm coat out of the bear's fur.

Winter was fast approaching, and soon he saw a bear.

The bear was coming toward him, and he raised his gun to shoot, and he took aim, and suddenly the bear spoke, and the bear said, "'Wait, wait, why do you want to shoot me?'

To which the hunter replied and said, "'Well, it's going to be cold,' and he said, "'I need a fur coat.'

But the bear replied, "'But I'm hungry.'"

Maybe we can work out a compromise.

And they did.

In the end, the hunter was well enveloped with the bear's fur, and the bear had eaten his dinner.

Now, you know, some things aren't rocket science.

One social commentator a few years ago said that common sense had become a superpower because there's so little of it.

A book I read some years ago that I have in my library by Philip Howard is

An attorney was titled The Death of Common Sense, and in that book he writes about how the loss of common sense is suffocating and destroying America.

But I want to suggest to you this morning that there's a loss of common sense, spiritual common sense, among a lot of Christians today, and even in the church today.

Now, I want to also say this to you because you can see if we don't compromise, my whole point of the message is we must live our lives with conviction, but the fact is I'm not saying that all conviction is acceptable either.

You see, you can be sincerely convicted to live by the wrong kinds of convictions.

Hello?

You can hold to and you can live by perverse and godless convictions that are not grounded in Scripture or grounded in truth.

And so the bottom line is pretty simple.

Compromise that is not grounded in biblical truth is sooner or later destructive.

There's a way that seems right to a man, but in the end is the way of destruction, the Bible says.

And conviction that is not shaped by God's transcendent word will lead you down a path of ignorance and ruin.

And so our hero today is a man who got it right.

He understood what it meant to

to live his life by conviction, to not compromise the truth and the ways of God.

And so I want us to read about him from two places here, and then I want to share some insight to you, I believe, that will help you and help me.

Because sooner or later in the age you're living in, your faith is going to be tested.

And you're going to have to decide, do I bend or do I bow?

We see the story here of Daniel, a man who refused to do either one.

Would you stand with me if you're physically able to do so as we read from these two sections, both of them, chapter 1 and then chapter 6.

Just two verses in chapter 1.

I'll come back and give you a little bit of background about the story, but it says in verse 8, but Daniel resolved, that's an important word,

Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine that he drank.

And therefore, he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

And verse 9 says, Now, if you will, turn over.

to chapter 6, and I want to read, we're breaking into the middle of the story, but I'll come back and fill in some gaps for you, but we break in at verse 16.

Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions.

And the king declared to Daniel, may your God, whom you serve, continually deliver you.

And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and the signet of his lord's, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel."

And then the king went to his palace, and he spent the night fasting.

No diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

And then at break of day, the king arose, and he went in haste to the den of the lions, and he came near to the den where Daniel was, and he cried out in a tone of anguish.

The king declared to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

And then Daniel said to the king, O king, live forever.

My God, send his angel and shut the lion's mouth and they have not harmed me because I was found blameless before him and also before you, O king.

I've done no harm.

Then the king was exceedingly glad and he commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den.

And so Daniel was taken up out of the den and no kind of harm was found on him.

Because he had trusted in his God.

Would you take now your word and multiply its impact in our hearts?

Would you use every word that I speak?

May they be acceptable to you, everything that I say.

May it be yours, and may you be honored with it.

Father, cause our hearts to hear now.

Bind the enemy that he not have the capacity to restrict the truth of your word into our hearts right now.

May we receive it, and may it change and transform us.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank you.

You can be seated.

Now, many of you will probably, you're familiar with Daniel, the story of Daniel.

My grandsons, I read them Bible stories, and this is one of their favorites.

They say, Pops, read the story of the man and the lions.

They love that story.

We all do.

We all love this story because we want to be people like Daniel.

I assume you want to be someone like Daniel who knows how to stand and not bow the knee or bend himself to the pagan worship of the world we live in.

And the early chapters of Daniel are about Daniel, but they're also about three of his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

and their fate, the kind of fate that they lived.

These four young men had been taken captive along with a host of others from Israel into Babylon, and they were made servants.

But because these young men in particular were so strong in their faith,

And in their devotion to God, God elevated them up.

Even in this pagan culture they were in, he elevated them to positions of authority and influence.

And it made the others who were native Babylonians, it made the other politicians of the day angry at them.

And they began to scheme, how can we take Daniel down?

And later they would scheme the same kind of thing, how do we take down Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

And so they began to plot, and they began to scheme, and God was favoring Daniel in every conceivable way.

And so they finally realized, if you look over in verse 4, that the only way they could accuse him was

would be to set him up, to frame him some way in relation to his worship of his God.

They knew that he wouldn't compromise in his worship of God.

And so they said, if we're going to get him, that's the only place we're going to be able to get him.

Because he's blameless.

And everything he does seems to work out.

So we've got to set him up.

And so they went and they played to the ego of the king.

And they said, look, king, you are worth being worshipped.

People ought to worship you.

And you can see some egotistical king going, yeah, I get that.

And they said, so we've got this idea that there needs to be a document signed and at a certain time when the trumpet sound and the music plays that everyone should hit a knee and they should begin to worship you.

And he said, I like that.

But Daniel wouldn't do that, of course, as you know.

And as a result, they said, and king, everybody that won't do that should be punished.

They should be put to death.

There's no reason not to do it.

It demonstrates great loyalty.

And so here's the thing.

If they won't do it, king, let's take and throw them to the lions.

Let's feed them to the lions.

That's the punishment.

And just the knowledge that that is the punishment out there will cause people to bend a knee even if they don't want to bend a knee.

except they knew Daniel wouldn't.

They knew that that was the place that they could get him, and they were exactly right.

And Daniel would remain faithful.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would remain faithful for 60 years in the service of the king.

And by the way, Daniel was about to be promoted before he was thrown in.

Did you know that?

The Bible says in that sixth chapter that Daniel was about to be made head of the empire.

He was going to be second only to the king.

And so they said we had to act fast.

Daniel, though, would not compromise.

The Bible says, brothers and sisters, that in the last days, that God will send a strong delusion, causing people who do not know him to be deceived and believe what is false instead of what is true.

In the last days that God will send them a false delusion so that they believe lies instead of believing the truth.

Can you not look around you today and believe that that has not already begun?

That's why Daniel's story and Daniel's lessons are particularly important for us in the days that we live in.

Because as I said, the day is coming when maybe we won't be thrown to the lions.

We may be.

It may be a different kind of line, but they may say, you can't continue to worship like you worship without severe penalty.

The day is coming when your faith is going to be tested.

It may be tested in your home.

The day is coming when your faith may be tested in your work if it's not already.

The day is already here when it's being tested in our education systems.

The day is coming when your faith is going to be tested.

So how you respond is important, and how Daniel responded is a model for us, and that's why he is a part of our series here in Lessons for Life.

And so I want to give you three responses that Daniel demonstrated to us.

In his story.

The first is this.

It is that Daniel declared his godly convictions.

What do you do when your faith is tested?

Well, first of all, you've got to declare your convictions.

The godly convictions, not just convictions.

There are a lot of people with convictions.

It's not about just convictions.

It's about the right convictions.

And Daniel declared his godly convictions.

We see it in 8 and 9 of chapter 1.

And then again in verse 22 in this passage.

We see it there in chapter 1 when he said, Daniel resolved.

I told you that's an important word because it means uncompromised loyalty.

He resolved.

I know who I'm loyal to.

I'm not compromising my loyalty.

Let me make just a few observations about his declaration there.

Number one, Daniel's declaration wasn't trying to be obstinate or offensive.

And it's important you understand that.

I've met some people that have the spiritual gift of irritation.

You know some of them?

It's like their goal is to offend people.

Daniel wasn't trying to offend anybody.

Daniel wasn't trying to be obstinate and say, okay, I'll just show them.

That isn't what Daniel was doing.

Daniel simply knew what he believed, and he was faithful in declaring his convictions.

I'll come back to that in just a bit.

So Daniel wasn't trying to be an irritant.

Daniel wasn't trying to be obstinate or offensive.

Let me just put a footnote in here.

However, when you live uncompromisingly according to the truth of God, you will offend some people.

So just know that.

If you compromise the word of God, the truth of God, you're going to offend some people.

That's the first observation I make about his declaration.

The second is this.

Daniel did not try to come up with a culturally acceptable answer.

They were framing Daniel.

And they knew for Daniel to get out of this fix, he would have to compromise.

He would have to bend to their ways, to their ideology, to their philosophy, to their expression of worship.

And Daniel didn't say, well, can y'all give me a while?

Let me think on this.

Daniel didn't, there was no indication that Daniel spent any time trying to come up with an answer that was acceptable to everybody else.

He didn't rack his brain trying to appease the authorities with some compromised position and cause everybody to be happy.

In fact, they really didn't want him to because they were trying to get rid of him.

The third observation I would give you about his declaration is that Daniel was not intimidated by the rules of the academy.

Do you see Daniel, and for that matter Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, have been placed in what is called the royal academy.

Why is that?

Because even though they were captives, and they were Jewish captives, they demonstrated great mental acuity.

They were recognized, these guys, and by the way, part of that is because the favor of God rested upon them.

And so that was recognized by the king, and he moved them up through the ranks.

But Daniel still wasn't intimidated by the rules of the academy.

He wasn't afraid to violate the rules if those rules required him to violate his relationship with God.

It was a no-brainer for him.

Bob Briner wrote a book many years ago, and I highly recommend it if you can find it.

It's called Roaring Lambs.

He's a media mogul, Bob Briner was.

Very successful businessman.

But he wrote this book called Roaring Lambs for believers.

And he said, and I quote, Why does it seem so stupid to openly be who we are?

Why should it be fashionable to keep the most important aspects of our lives as Christians in the closet?

Gays don't.

Radical feminists don't.

A modern politically correct position that we often hear today is that a person's religion, though, is personal and private between him and God, and because of that, it's no one else's business and shouldn't be displayed publicly.

And then he adds this, is this even scriptural?

Meaning, of course it isn't.

Can we be all Christ expects us to be and live our lives as quiet, closeted Christians?

Can we be the salt that he commands us to be when we refuse to acknowledge his ownership of our lives?

Perhaps the most important first step in not compromising your fate is the declaration of your biblical convictions.

The declaration of what you believe.

And to do that, you know, there's some things you've got to do.

You have to know what you believe, right?

You've got to know what you believe.

You can't declare something that you don't know.

You have to know what you believe.

The Bible says, my people perish for lack of knowledge.

That is knowledge of the truth, knowledge of God.

Listen, friend, there's no excuse for an ignorant Christian.

There's no excuse for an ignorant Christian.

We learn all about things that we want to know about.

And there's no excuse not to know God.

about God and about our faith secondly if you're going to declare what you believe not only must you know what you believe listen to this you have to believe what you believe there are a lot of people that know what they believe they just don't believe it I mean they can talk it they can speak it but they just don't really believe it and this is the heart of your convictions that you actually believe what you know

I know information, but do I believe what I know?

And then the third thing I would say to you if you are going to declare what you believe is not only must you know what you believe and believe what you believe.

Listen, I bet you've already figured out you have to practice what you believe.

See, this is the evidence of your convictions that you are a doer and not just a hearer, right?

And Daniel's practice, Daniel wasn't a theoretician.

He wasn't one saying, let me tell you about my God and let me tell you what I believe.

He was not a theoretician.

He was a practitioner.

He said, just watch me.

You will see.

And they had watched him.

It's very evident as you read through this whole narrative.

The reason that they could say, if we're going to find any problem with him, it's going to have to be in the area of his relationship with God.

How would they know that?

unless they had seen him practicing what he believed.

You see, this is the real evidence of your convictions, that you're a doer of what you believe.

Daniel's practice, even by the end of this story, the way he lived his life as a doer, by the end of the story, even King Darius was convinced that Daniel's God was God.

And you know what?

The king made another declaration.

He said, now I'm making a declaration for everybody in Babylon, and that is that Daniel's God is the God.

why all because of how he practiced and declared his convictions is it possible just possible that the reason we're not making a bigger difference in the world as believers is because we are silent when we should be speaking the convictions of god even when those convictions go against the kingdoms of this world

And that leads me to the second thing I want you to see this morning, and that is not only did Daniel declare his godly conviction,

Second, Daniel also defied his godless culture.

Verse 8 of chapter 1, verse 5 of chapter 6, which we didn't read.

You can look over there at it if you want to with me.

But those who hated Daniel conspired against him.

And as I said, they conspired against him in the only place that they knew that they could set him up.

Because they knew, they knew this is the one place that he would defy their concocted rule.

And he would not, he wouldn't obey, he wouldn't follow if it caused him to deny his God.

And you know, and they knew, and Daniel knew, and everybody else in their culture knew that to refuse to compromise in this matter would result most likely in at best imprisonment and at worst death.

They all knew it.

The culture knew it.

The rule that was passed was widely known.

It was national.

It wasn't individual.

It wasn't for a particular group.

Daniel was living as a captive in a very hostile secular culture, and yet he refused to cave in to the culture's godless demands just so he would be accepted or to keep his royal position.

And, you know, he could have probably argued to himself about that.

Well, you know, maybe I can compromise here.

I'll pray instead of the three times that I normally pray that everybody knows that that's who I am.

Instead of that, what I'll do is I'll shut the windows and I'll go back somewhere.

Nobody will ever know that.

Then I can stay in this royal position, in particular the new one I'm about to hold.

I'll just stay in that position because, you know...

I can make a bigger difference for God if I just stay in this position.

He could have rationalized it like that, right?

But he didn't.

He said, no, there are some lines I won't cross.

There are some things I'm not going to compromise.

And when it comes to my obedience and my devotion to God, it's a no-brainer.

I'm not going to do it, even if it costs me my royal position.

I want to tell you the day is coming where it may cost you to be a believer.

It may cost you financially.

It may cost you vocationally.

It may cost you socially because you won't bend.

You say, here, this is as far as I can go.

I will not step across this line.

I will stay faithful and obedient to God.

In his little book, Faith on the Line, Charles Coulson, one of my favorite authors, he wrote these words.

He says, much of our Christianity today is sadly entertainment for the faithful.

We talk in our own language to like-minded friends, and the world is content to let us put on our own show as long as we don't bother anyone.

And then he adds this, listen.

Listen.

but we are meant to bother the world.

To bother it by presenting a message that convicts people of sin, which offers an alternative to the hallowness and the nihilism of secular life.

Daniel bothered them.

He bothered them.

And he refused to simply go along in order to get along.

Why?

And I think there's a modern day parallel for us.

A parallel for us today would be that we, like Daniel, must not be afraid to stand up for Christ.

Your relationship with God is a game changer before the world.

Daniel's stance resulted in God being lifted up in Babylon.

It had just the opposite outcome.

You know, I really believe, I've said this to you, I really believe that we're close to a move of God in this nation.

I really believe we are.

And I believe we will see that in the last days.

I believe that's biblical, that we will see a move of God.

I believe we're close.

But I believe it also means that God's people must be faithful to seek him and follow him and obey him and keep reaching the lost, just like this emphasis this month.

Reach the world.

Reach the world.

Listen, that has not gone away.

It's who we are.

It's who we're supposed to be.

And we, like Daniel, are to not be afraid to stand up for Christ, knowing that everybody's not going to get it and everybody's not going to say, ah, I'm with you.

but we are to take a stand for Christ.

Jesus said it this way, your candle, if it's put under a bushel, it can't shine.

And salt, if it's thrown out on the path and traveled over, eventually loses its saltiness.

He said, let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and what class?

Glorify God your Father.

What he's saying, what Jesus was saying to us was, let the world see who you are.

Let them know who you are.

And so Daniel was afraid.

We must not be afraid to stand up for Christ without compromise, in love, speaking the truth in love, as the Scripture says.

I thought about when I was working on this message, I thought about Acts chapter 4.

Peter and John are brought before the council.

And by the way, it was both a political and a religious council.

And it says this, so they called them and they charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered them, whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.

They said, look,

You can decide what you think is right, but we know what we have seen and heard, and we are not going to be quiet about that.

And that's been the truth for us for 2,000 plus years as the church and as believers and followers of Christ.

We must not be afraid to stand up for Christ and to speak up for Christ.

And then secondly, don't be ashamed of God.

There's no indication that Daniel was ashamed of God in the midst of this great paganistic culture that he lived in.

Don't be ashamed of God.

Look, Christians, stop apologizing for being a Christian.

I mean, we don't have to do that.

Stop qualifying your relationship with Jesus.

Well, I'm a follower of Christ, but now I love everybody.

Look, that is by default.

If you're a follower of Christ, quit trying to qualify it so people won't be potentially offended.

Don't try to offend them.

As I said earlier, that's not the goal.

Speak truth and love.

But you don't have to qualify.

You don't have to explain to everybody why you're a Christian.

Well, I'm a Christian.

I'm a Christian.

And look, if they don't like it, they don't like it.

You can't affect that.

But the fact is, live your faith.

Stand for Christ.

Don't be ashamed of Jesus.

Jesus was not ashamed for any one of us when he hung naked on a cross.

Let's not be ashamed of him.

Amen?

Don't be ashamed of Jesus.

Joe Rigney, in his book, and I highly recommend this book to you, it's called The Sin of Empathy.

And he makes this great statement in this book.

It's a small book, so men can read it too.

He makes this statement.

He says, you know that censorious progressive that's sitting on your shoulder, critically evaluating everything you do?

Knock him off and put Jesus in his place.

This means refusing to pare down or cut down the sharp edges of the truth in order to cater to progressive sensibilities of the culture.

Instead, believe that the Scriptures are both true and good for the world.

Speak boldly.

Speak clearly.

Speak courageously with no muttering and mincing of words.

Listen to this.

He writes, refuse to be embarrassed by anything the Bible says.

Did y'all get that?

That book is worth that one line.

Refuse to be embarrassed by anything that the Bible says.

Live beneath the gaze of God in the sight of a happy father who is pleased with you in Christ.

Seek his approval above all else.

But refuse to be, you know, it's just time for us to stop saying, well, I believe the Bible.

I know you may differ about that.

Stop apologizing for who you are.

Daniel didn't.

There's no indication that he was intimidated by the culture to the point that he said, now look, I'm a follower of God.

I know y'all aren't, but let's just believe what we want to believe.

There was none of that with Daniel.

Paul said in Romans 1.16, for I'm not ashamed of the gospel, for it's the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

And then third, don't be alarmed by hostility.

Never be surprised by opposition.

Never be surprised by persecution.

And never be surprised by the sources from which it comes.

Daniel, think about this.

You know where Daniel came under fire from?

His work colleagues.

Never be surprised where it comes from.

It may come from people that you work with.

It may come from family members.

I had a family member years ago that referred to me as a religious fanatic.

and as a religious kook.

Well, I don't think I'm a kook, but I am a fanatic for Jesus.

But the Bible says a person's enemies will be those of his own household in Matthew 10.

Jesus said that.

Listen, the goal is not to try.

Y'all understand what I'm saying?

The goal is not to try and to offend the world.

That's not the goal.

Our goal is to redeem the world.

But to do that, we're going to have to stand for and we're going to have to speak the good news of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

It is the hope of the world.

It's the hope of humanity.

And we're going to have to do that without compromise.

But in doing so, like Daniel, we must never let the world define us or let the world define our message.

No compromise on the message.

No compromise on the truth of God.

Well, there's one final thing that I want to share with you this morning, and that is I want you to see third.

Daniel demonstrated his godly commitment.

In chapter 6, verse 10, we didn't read this, but look there with me, if you will.

It says, 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.

He didn't change a thing.

Now, if you're not careful, say, well, that sounds kind of like he just was, I'm just going to rub it in your face.

That's not what that's saying.

It's saying he knew the document had been signed.

He knew the consequences that would come, but he didn't care.

He was who he was with his God no matter what.

And so just like he had previously done every day, what did he do?

Three times a day he prayed to God.

He opened his windows.

He prayed to God.

He didn't change anything.

He knew what could result.

And he faced this massive dilemma.

If you really think about it, if he didn't show that he was now progressive and woke,

and that his first loyalty was now to the new Persian government, if he didn't show this by obeying the new law that had been passed, then he'd be thrown to the lions.

But on the other hand, if he failed to demonstrate his commitment to the Lord, he would, and he knew this, be displeasing to God, and he would lose the very protection and guidance and favor of God.

So Daniel had a choice to make.

His choice was between potentially losing his life on earth or losing his daily presence in favor of the Lord.

Do you all know what the U.S.

Coast Guard motto is?

You have to go.

This is the motto.

You have to go, but you don't have to come back.

You have to go, but you don't have to come back.

Duty demands that you go, but in going, you may not come back.

But you have to go.

You have to follow.

For Daniel, the decision was not difficult.

Given that the Lord had always taken care of him, looking after and meeting his every need, he made his choice, and it was a choice of uncompromising faith.

He would obey the Lord rather than men.

Just like further on in the book of Acts in chapter 5 and verse 29, Peter once again called on the carpet for living for God, has to respond to the religious leaders, and he says this, but Peter and the apostles answered, we must obey God rather than men.

So here's what Daniel teaches us.

Daniel teaches us don't compromise.

Live out your faith.

Do not fear the world.

And leave the outcome up to God.

We see it expressed again, don't we, with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, a parallel kind of story, you know.

An idol is raised, and they're set up for their faith, and they're told that they have to worship this idol.

They said, just like Daniel said, we're not going to do it.

And the king liked them, by the way, just like the king liked Daniel.

And the king was, by the way, the king was brokenhearted here.

He was hoping.

This king, did y'all pick up on the fact he went and fasted for Daniel?

I don't know his God, but I'm going to fast.

Fast.

He fasted.

He loved Daniel.

He wanted Daniel to come out, and he thought he probably was gone.

But Daniel, did your God, whom you continually serve.

I think that twice he says that.

Did y'all notice that?

You ought to circle that word, whom you continually serve, because that's an important word.

Because what he's saying is, it was obvious, even to the king, that he lived his faith.
consistently.

You continue, has he, that God, has that God delivered you?

Same was true with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and they said, we won't bow.

And you know what I love about their story?

Is they say this, oh king, you need to know something.

Our God is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace.

We believe it.

But even if he doesn't,

We're not going to bend the knee to you.

We're not going to worship you.

We're going to worship him even if he doesn't.

What a statement of faith.

We trust him in life for deliverance and we trust him in death if he doesn't.

We're going to follow and serve him.

Well, you know the outcome.

Daniel had experienced that.

They experienced that.

They left the outcome up to God.

Don't compromise.

A young girl had no money when the offering plates were
were passed around.

So she had a picture of herself, and she took that picture and she put it in an offering plate.

And she put a note with her picture, and the note said this, I have nothing to give but myself.

Well, that's what demonstrating godly commitment's all about.

It's about giving ourself.

It is like Daniel kneeling before God and placing his life in the hands of God.

Or it's like Paul in Romans 12 and verse 1 that said, I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Presenting yourself.

Daniel had presented himself.

Shadrach, Meshach, they had presented themselves to God.

Or it's like you this morning.

Kneeling and giving all of yourself and your soul to God without compromise.

Don't compromise.

Your faith is going to be tested.

Don't compromise.

Your faith is going to be challenged.

Don't compromise.

Don't compromise.

Live your faith.

The world will see and leave the results with God.

Father, thank you for Daniel.

Thank you for these four young Hebrews who show us what it means to live a life of faith in a hostile culture.

They show us what it's like to follow you to the point of exalting you before others by the way they live their life.

Thank you for that.

Teach us from that.

Let us learn lessons from that, and let us be modern-day Daniels.

Father, even now, there are people who are watching by television, live stream, they're listening on radio, are in this live audience, and they need to bend a knee.

But it doesn't need to be to the pagan ideas of the world.

They need to bend a knee to you.

And I pray that this morning, Father, that you'll move in the hearts of people that are here or listening in any of these media and cause them to recognize that they need, like Daniel, to bend to you and you alone, to stop compromising their faith, to not be ashamed of Jesus, to walk in the power and the might and the presence and the favor of the Holy Spirit.

Would you speak now before we're gone in Jesus' name?

Amen.