

Thriving in an X-Rated World[☆]

Sermon Series: Fear Factor

Daniel 1:1-21

DANIEL'S STORY:

How Bad Was It?

Daniel's Dilemma:

DANIEL'S THREE BIG SECRETS

❶ **Optimism** – *He knew that. . .*

- ✓ Even in Babylon, God is in control.
- ✓ Sometimes the short-term success of the wicked is God's will.
- ✓ Panic and despair are not from God.

❷ **Humility** – *He knew that. . .*

- ✓ Everyone deserves respect – even God's enemies.

❸ **Wisdom** – *He knew that. . .*

- ✓ There's a big difference between what we don't like and what God forbids.

REALife Application

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. As we continue our new "FEAR FACTOR" series, what would you say are the three to five biggest fears people have in our community today?

2. This weekend we heard how Daniel lived fearlessly in the midst of an evil Babylonian culture. What are some pressures we face in today's world that can make it hard to live a righteous life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Living a fearless life does not mean that we deny the reality of darkness and fear. There are real things worthy of our concern and even fear. But it does mean that we never lose our hope and confidence in God no matter what life throws at us. Jesus recognized that the twelve disciples would face some serious fears after He was gone. What hope did Jesus give them in the following verses?

John 14:1, 26-27 John 16:33

What hope does Paul also give us in Romans 8:38-39 to live a "fearless" life?

2. Daniel's outlook (and the three big secrets) allowed him to thrive despite the pressures of a godless culture. What are some things found in the following verses that can help us thrive despite the pressures we face in our world and culture today?

Psalms 119:9-11 Romans 12:1-2 James 1:22-24

3. The level of our humility is often revealed in how we respond to those who oppose us. How does Romans 12:9-16 help us better understand and define what godly humility looks like?

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