



**Series:** Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

**Passage:** Daniel 1:8-21

**Title:** Finding Purpose and Meaning in Life

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard, 06/23/2024

**Discussion Starter** – Why do you think people are always looking for meaning and purpose in their lives? How has your search for meaning and purpose in life changed over the years?

- 1) What was the main point Solomon was conveying about the worldly pursuits he had in the book of Ecclesiastes?
- 2) We know, that often life is hard and can cause us to pursue things that are not good for us. Read Matthew 11:28-30. Explain how this passage should apply to the pursuits in our life.
- 3) How do you think Daniel was able to cope with being taken away from his family at what is believed to be around 15 years old, in bondage for a 900 mile journey from Jerusalem? What was king Nebuchadnezzar's real plan and purpose for Daniel and his three friends? What was he actually trying to get them to pursue?
  - a) What are some of the things God is calling you to pursue for His Kingdom right now?
- 4) How do you think Daniel was able to overcome the temptations of all the worldly trappings that king Nebuchadnezzar had laid out for him?
- 5) How did God protect Daniel here, and in what way did Daniel show his godly wisdom as he interacts with the chief of the eunuchs? What might an average 15 year old boy have done instead faced with Daniel's circumstances?
- 6) Daniel purposed in his heart to live for God. What did God give him and for what purpose were these gifts given to him?
- 7) What were the specific gifting's God gave to the four men in verse 17, and what additional gifting's were given to Daniel?
  - b) What specific gifting's do you think God has given to you? How do you think He wants you to use them?
- 8) Read John 15:1-5. What is the fruit that God is looking for here in these verses? Why do you think God prunes us? What analogy is Jesus communicating to us in verse 3 and 4?
- 9) How does God's view of fruit and blessings differ from what the world values or considers fruit and blessings?
- 10) Read Psalm 119:97-104. How do you think Daniel looked at and applied this passage to his life? Do you think he had a strong desire to follow rules or was there something more? Describe your thoughts.
  - c) What area of your walk with God might need some pruning by God to bear more fruit and how might this build your character to handle more of His blessings?