

Choosing the Right Friends- 2

Introduction

- Daniel is taken from home & brought to this new city & college.
 - The sights & sounds of this new city would be appealing!
 - He is enrolled in college & will be around many new people.
- This is a critical moment in Daniel's life & future.
 - Who Daniel chooses to become friends with & spend time around will have a strong influence on his life.
- Another way to stay grounded & grow in your faith in an increasing secular college is by choosing the right friends wisely.*

I. Daniel Chooses Three Friends (Dan. 1:3-15)

1. Daniel could have decided to hang out with anyone in this new city & school. Opportunity to meet new people
 - He chose 3 friends- Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah
2. These were young men from his home town. (1:3-4)
 - Did Daniel know them prior?* We do not know.
 - We assume they knew something of each other.
 - From same tribe- same upbringing, values, & beliefs.
 - Applied themselves in school & worked hard.
 - Shared a commonality- their faith.
3. Choose 1-3 people you will be close with **wisely!**
 - Eccl. 4:9-12**
 - You will be around many people, may have many acquaintances & "friends" on social media, can't be friends with them all.
 - Examples?* Daniel, Jesus, Paul, & Job each had three.
 - Elijah had Elisha; David had Jonathon.
4. You may come to a new place and not know anyone.
 - Get to know people & figure out who will make a good friend & who will make be an acquaintance.

II. How Daniel Chose His Friends (Dan. 1:11-15)

1. He started with a commonality- His faith.
 - You will attract who you are.
2. Daniel gets to know them & try's them- very important!
 - This is how you will learn who they are.
 - These stood firm with him in his request for food.
 - Shared the same purposed heart, convictions, and understanding of God's word. **Pr. 18:24**
3. They were his go to prayer warriors (2:14-19).
 - Who he could count on in a time of need.
 - Do you have people outside of family like this?*
4. *What are some ways to try friends? (At bottom)*
 - As you do this you will learn who to grow closer with & who to distance yourself from.
 - It can be hard to distance especially if there is time invested or it's a relationship. *How can we?*
 - Constantly have to evaluate friends and what kind of friend you are being- **Prov. 22:24-25.**

III. The Effect of Friends on Our Lives (Prov. 13:20)

1. You are now or you soon will be who your friends are!
 - Friends are one of the most powerful influences in our lives.
2. These 4 stayed strong in a secular culture & college!
 - Didn't become a statistic, leave their faith, change their beliefs, or compromise.
 - There is strength in numbers especially with likeminded friends.
3. Amnon had a friend named Jonadab- **II Sam. 13:1-6, 12-15**
 - Headed advice from 1 bad friend led to rape, hating her,

Tamar remaining unmarried, Absalom hating Amnon & killing him, David very angry, and Absalom gone for 3 years.

Application- Take an inventory of your friends- *Who are your 1-3?*
-*Do you really know them? Who two you need to reach out to & who do you need to distance from?*
-Don't make friends with first person- Satan has distractors!
-If God has friends perfect for you we best beehive that Satan has perfect friends for us as well

What are some ways to try friends?

1. Ask specific questions about beliefs, convictions. Don't assume!
2. Watch how they practice those beliefs.
3. Look & listen- see their responses in times of need, how they treat you & others, family.
4. Is their faith real? Do they practice it?
5. God, Bible, Prayer, Church...how important is it
6. What do they listen to & watch?
7. See who they hang around.

God could have the perfect mate or friend but because of who you hang around or your lifestyle/behavior they may distance themselves from you. People are watching you.