MMBS Study: Daniel 1:1-7
Luke McNeely | Week 1 | 9/10/25

Goal of the morning: Set us up for a successful journey through the book Daniel

Background:

Author: Daniel

Setting: Babylon

Biblical Category: Major Prophet

- Matthew 24:15 - "So when you see the abomination of desolation, **spoken of by the prophet Daniel**, standing in the holy place"
- Matthew 26:64 - "You have said it," Jesus told him. "But I tell you, in the future you will see **the son of man seated at the right hand** of Power and **coming on the clouds of heaven**."

Structure:

Chapters 1-6: Narrative; The story Daniel and his friends.

Chapters 7-12: Describes and Interprets Daniel's visions and prophecy

Main Themes:

1. God's Sovereignty
2. Faithfulness in Enemy Territory

Question to Consider: How does a person actually live faithfully in a culture that is opposed to God?

1. Maintain a Godly perspective even when it "feels" like defeat.

Read Daniel 1:1-2 and answer the question, what stuck out to me?

Daniel's perspective: God is at work in this.

Three things that will help us maintain a Godly perspective:

1. Right Understanding of God – which comes from being in His Word.
2. Community - Godly men and women speaking truth into our life.
3. Time - it's easier to see God's hand at work when we look back.

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2. Pursue Godly Formation **in the face of a culture that is trying to conform.**

Read verses 3–6. Answer this question: "What part of Nebuchadnezzar discipleship/indoctrination strategy sticks out to you?"

We all need to be asking: Who is walking behind me that I can invest in?

3. Cultivate Godly Community even when isolation **feels easier?**

Equally, we all need to be asking: Who is walking with me?

Stats from the Survey Center on American Life

- **1990:** 55% of men reported having six or more close friends.
- **2021:** 27% of men reported having six or more close friends.
- **Men with no close friends:** From 3% in 1990 to 15% in 2021.

Nebuchadnezzar's plan was to isolate for the purpose of weakening their resolve. God's plan is for us to "one another" for the purpose of strengthening.

4. Rest in Godly Identity even when the accuser tries to rename you.

Daniel "God is my Judge"	---->	Belteshazzar "Bel protect the king."
Hananiah "Jehovah is gracious"	---->	Shadrach "command of Aku."
Mishael "Who is like God"	---->	Meshach "who is what Aku is."
Azariah "Jehovah is my helper"	---->	Abednego "servant of Nego."

Nebuchadnezzar's plan: "You are what I call you"

"Your identity is the story you tell yourself about yourself." Paul Louis Cole

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you from today's lesson?
2. Has living out your faith ever felt like it could be a liability? How would you advise someone else who was feeling that way?
3. How can the men around you pray for one another this week?