

LIVING OR HIM

Part 3: A Powerful Impact

My part of the teaching in the camp is how living for God can produce A Powerful Impact in our life and the lives of others.

When we truly live for Jesus we will see his power, his miracles in our life and the lives of those around us. There is an aspect of the power of God and the working of God that will not take place in our lives and in the world until the Christians, the Body of Christ truly live for Him. As we study God's Word we will learn how living for God can produce this powerful impact in our own lives and in the life of others. In the book of Daniel, we see powerful examples of how to live for God and how living for God can impact our life and others in a powerful way.

A Powerful Impact Lesson 1: Purpose In Your Heart To Live For Him

Introduction: In the book of Daniel chapter one we see an example of Daniel and his three friends choosing to live for God. The background of the story is; The King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and took the best and brightest young men to Babylon to work for him in his kingdom. Four of these young men were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Let's look at their story and learn choosing to life for God can produce a powerful impact.

1. We must **PURPOSE** in our hearts to live for Him.
 - a. Daniel 1:8 *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*
 1. Daniel had a heart for God and the things of God.
 2. By refusing to compromise their beliefs and defiling themselves they chose to live for Him.

b. I will not be defiled.

1. Daniel and his friends refused to be defiled.
2. What does it mean to be defiled? To be involved with anything God considers sin.
3. 2 Corinthians 6:17 *Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

c. I will not be ashamed.

1. Daniel and his friends were neither ashamed of their God nor afraid to take a bold stand.
2. Mark 8:38 - *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

d. Be like Daniel and his friends, make a decision that you will not be defiled, ashamed or afraid to live for Him.

1.

2. A Powerful **IMPACT**.

a. Daniel 1:17-21 *17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.*

1. God blessed them in the natural with great knowledge, skill, and wisdom. (Verse 17)
2. Promoted them to a high place. Verse 19 *therefore they served before the king.*

3. We can see that living for God produced a powerful impact for their lives. They were captives, but became some of the top advisors of the King.

Lessons we can learn from Daniel and his three friends:

1. There will be opportunities to compromise our beliefs. Sometimes it may seem that there is pressure to compromise and conform (The other young Hebrew men ate the King's delicacies). But God always has a way to help those who will not be ashamed, afraid, but be bold, and chose to live for him.
2. We chose to live for God by not compromising our beliefs.
3. We live for Him by not being ashamed of Jesus and taking a stand for Jesus and the Gospel.
4. When we chose to live for Him this way, God will honor us, bless us, give us favor, and promote us.

Conclusion: It is not possible to live the true Christian life without choosing to live for Him. In the story in Daniel chapter one we see the powerful impact that came as they chose to live for Him. If you want to see God impact your life in a powerful way, choose to live for Him.

A Powerful Impact Lesson 2: Saved From The Fiery Furnace

Introduction: In the book of Daniel chapter three we see the story of the three young Jewish men being cast into the fiery furnace because they chose to live for God. We also see a wonderful story of God's power, faithfulness, and goodness. This story is another powerful example of how living for God produces a powerful impact in our lives and the lives of those around us.

1. They **CHOSE** to live for Him.
 - a. Daniel 3:16-18 - *16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*
 1. The three Jewish men chose to live for Him.
 2. They refused to compromise their beliefs.
 3. They saw it was more important to honor God than save themselves.
 4. They chose to not bow down even if it meant they would die.
 5. This is living for God.
 - b. How could they make a choice like this?
 1. When you **KNOW GOD** you can resist temptation to compromise.
 2. Daniel 11:32 NIV *With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.*
 2. They knew God was **WITH THEM**.
 3. Isaiah 43:1-2 - *1 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through*

the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

3. They had **RIGHT FRIENDS**.

4. 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 NIV - 33 *Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."* 34 *Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.*

4. They knew God would **HONOR** them.

5. 1 Samuel 2:30 *Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.*

5. All these verses were written many years before Daniel.

2. A powerful **IMPACT**.

a. God **MIRACULOUSLY** saved them from the fiery furnace.

6. Daniel 3:24-25 - 24 *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."* 25 *"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

b. King Nebuchadnezzar honored God.

7. Daniel 3:26-29 - 26 *Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here."* Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. 27 *And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.* 28 *Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"* 29 *Therefore I make a*

decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”

c. King Nebuchadnezzar promoted God's people above his own.

8. Daniel 3:30 *Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.*

Lessons we can learn from the story of the fiery furnace.

1. If we want to see God work in a powerful way, we must live for Him.
2. To live for Him we need the right friends to encourage, support and stand with us as you live for God.
3. We can trust God will deliver us.
4. We can trust God with our lives when we truly know Him.
5. To live for God is to be not be willing to compromise, to honor Him and obey Him, even if it means we will lose something (V. 18).

Conclusion: If these three men did not take a stand for God and chose to live for Him they would not have seen a miracle, God would not have been glorified, and they would not have been blessed. But choosing to live for God produced a powerful impact in their lives and the lives of others. God was glorified and they were blessed. Choose to live for Him and experience God's power and miracles in your life. And watch God impact the lives of those around you.

Discussion questions.

1. Based on the sermons, what does it mean to live for God?
2. How does knowing God help you to choose to live for Him?
3. Have you purposed in your heart to live for Him? Pray for each other for God to help make the choice to live for Him.

A Powerful Impact Lesson 3: Touching the World!

Introduction: As we truly live our life for Him we will touch the world around us. You can be used of God to change lives. People can be saved, set free, healed, come into a real relation with God. In this lesson we will learn Jesus lived for us, the results of living for Jesus, and what does it mean to live for Him.

2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

1. Jesus **LIVED** and **DIED** for you.

a. John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

1. Jesus surrendered all so you could receive all.

2. Jesus wants us to live for Him.

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2. The **RESULTS** of living for Him.

a. True happiness and eternal reward.

10. Mark 8:34-38 - *34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

11.

3. What does it mean to live for Him?

a. God wants us to **LAY DOWN** our life for others.

1. 1 John 3:16 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
 2. How do we lay down our lives for other? Care about others enough to be willing to sacrifice for their well-being and share the Gospel and God's love with them.
- b. Let Jesus live **THROUGH YOU**.
1. Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*
 2. Let Jesus live through you by allowing Him to love others, minister to others, and touch others through you.
- c. People will be **SAVED** and **RECONCILED** to God.
1. 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 *19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*
 2. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Him. Now we have the ministry of reconciliation – and God is in us reconciling the world to him.
- d. Hurting people will be **MADE WHOLE**.
1. Psalm 147:1-3 *1 Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful. 2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. 3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*
 2. Jesus wants to use you to love and minister to others so they can be made whole in the spirit, soul and body.

12.

Conclusion: Jesus lived His life for you and died for you. Jesus wants us to not live for ourselves, but to live for Him by allowing Him to live through us. As we allow Jesus to live through us we will touch the lives of the people around us. People will be saved

and healed. The hurting and broken hearted will be healed. There is no greater life or purpose than this. To be a vessel God works through to bring wholeness to others. Will you choose to live for Him today?