Living Faithfully in Exile
Daniel 1

Three aspects of Daniel’s life that can help us achieve the goal of living faithfully in exile:

1. ______________ (1-7)
   - “Sometimes God may allow hardships to reach us because he wants his mercy to reach beyond us.” – Dale Davis
   - Christians around the world are under similar or worse persecution than even the four Hebrews boys we just read about. Persecution against Christians in America is increasing. Two reasons:
     • ______________
       - We are viewed as bigoted, misogynistic, hateful, narrow-minded, etc.
       - Jesus told us this would happen. Matthew 10:22, John 15:18.
     • ______________
       - When we fail to adhere to the entirety of Scripture people see that as hypocrisy.
       - It is not God’s desire that we ____________, but rather that we understand that we have been ____________ through the blood of Jesus and then act accordingly.
   - ____________ helps us see God more clearly, while ____________ confuses us into thinking we are God.

2. ______________ (8-9)
   - Remaining neutral is never a real option. Daniel didn’t wait until he was in the heat of the battle to make his decision. If we wait until the time to act to decide, it’s too late.
   - The same Spirit in Daniel is living in us so why don’t we use it?

3. ______________ (2, 9, 17)
   - God prepared Daniel just like He has prepared us for the battles we face.
   - There are some distinct similarities between Joseph and Daniel. They both:
     - Were taken against their will into a foreign land;
     - Interpreted dreams;
     - Were thrown into a pit with no hope of escape;
     - Became powerful in the foreign kingdom in which they were forced to live;
     - Played a role in the preservation of their people.
   - In both cases, the sovereignty of God is on full display:
     - Daniel 1:2 – God _______ Judah over to the Babylonians.
     - Genesis 37:28 – Joseph’s brothers _______ him for 20 pieces of silver to the slave traders who took him to Egypt.
     - Daniel 1:10 – God had _______ Daniel the respect and affection of the chief of staff.
     - Genesis 39:2 – God was _______ Joseph, and he prospered in Potiphar’s house.
     - Daniel 1:17 – God _______ the four Hebrew boys knowledge, skill, understanding, special abilities, etc.
     - Genesis 41:40 – Pharaoh made Joseph second in command over all of Egypt.

What are you prepared to do?