



+ **YOU**

Sermon Series: Authentic Christian Living
To be used with Session 3: Speak Truth Boldly
Sermon Title Possibilities:
Authentic Communication: Daniel 5:13-17,21-23

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study "Speak Truth Boldly," this sermon reminds Authentic Christian Living sometimes requires that we call out sin.

Introduction

Nebuchadnezzar's successor—Belshazzar—made a feast to 1000 nobles, he, the nobles, their wives, and their concubines drank wine out of the silver and gold vessels were taken from the house of God in Jerusalem. They got drunk and worshiped their false gods. While they are disrespecting God, the Lord causes the fingers of a man's hand to begin to write on the wall of the king's palace. The king gets terrified and seeks people to interpret what the writing says. No one could, and the king becomes all the more terrified. The queen tells the king about Daniel—both his character and his ability—and the king sends for Daniel. This brings us to our text. From this text, I want to talk to you about "*The Walk Behind Your Witness*," *The Words in Your Witness*," and "*The Weight of Your Witness*."

1. The Walk Behind Your Witness (v. 13-16).

Here, Daniel teaches us something about the power of your ways preceding your witness. The king had heard from the queen that Daniel had insight, intelligence, divine wisdom, supernatural abilities, and that he had an extraordinary spirit. In other words, his reputation preceded him.

It is imperative that we live the message we preach, that we walk the walk we talk, and that we embody the gospel that we evangelize with. Peter said as much when exhorted us to sanctify the Lord in our hearts and be prepared to share why we believe (I. Pet. 3:15). It has been said many times and many ways, "sometimes your life is the only Bible some will ever read."

2. The Words in Your Witness (v. v. 17,22-23).

Daniel *Rejected Worldly Treasures*, *Rebuked Worldly Arrogance*, and *Reproved Wicked Activities*. Daniel rejected worldly treasures when he refused to take the gifts and rewards that the king promised to whoever would read and interpret the inscription on the wall. He rebuked the king's worldly arrogance when he told him that he hadn't humbles his heart. Finally, he reproved the king's wicked actions when he told him that he exalted himself against the Lord by drinking out of His vessels and worshiping lifeless idols.

This reminds us that we must call sin what it is. We must be bold enough to tell those who hear and call upon us the truth about sin. And, we must, reprove those who act out wickedly when they're in our presence and seeking our leadership.

3. The Weight of Your Witness (v. v. 24-28).

Here, Daniel bears the bad news. He tells Belshazzar that inscriptions says that God has numbered his days, that he is deficient in weight, and that his kingdom will be transferred to the Medes and Persians. Daniels words carries weight for two reasons: He said what God said, and he was immediately promoted to a high-ranking position. We must remember that the former is always true for us. When we resay, what God has said, our words carry weight. Our words have the power to help people get saved (Rom. 1:16-17). Whether you know it or not, YOUR WITNESS IS POWERFUL!!!!

Conclusion

You engage in “Authentic Christian Living” when you speak the truth behaviorally, when you speak the truth purely, and when you speak the truth biblically,

Author Bio

Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church in Southaven, MS, and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.