

“A Man of Integrity”**Text: Daniel 1:1-21**

1. **WHY** would Daniel and his comrades make such a decision?
There are several possibilities:
 - A. First, some of the food may have been _____ according to instructions found in the OT book of Leviticus.
 - B. A second explanation is the refusal is Jewish law forbids the eating of meat that is _____ to false gods.
 - C. Third, a better explanation is Daniel understood eating the king's food represented _____ the king's friendship and patronage.
2. Daniel understands the situation, and decides, in his heart, what is _____ and what is wrong, and chose to do the right thing. Once set, Daniel will not be moved.

Daniel 1:8 - “Daniel made up his mind to eat and drink only what God had approved for his people to eat. And he asked the king's chief official for permission not to eat the food and wine served in the royal palace.”

Daniel 1:12-16 - “Please give us this test for ten days: Don't give us anything but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ After ten days compare how we look with how the other young men look who eat the king's food. See for yourself and then decide how you want to treat us, your servants.”

3. God was active in the preservation of Daniel and his friends – they might very well have been executed for their refusal of the direct order of the king!

Daniel 1:15-16 – “After ten days they looked healthier and better fed than all the young men who ate the king’s food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away the king’s special food and wine, feeding them vegetables instead.

Daniel 1:18-20 - “At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; so they entered the king’s service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.”

4. Our first hint of Daniel's greatness comes in his quiet _____ to give up his convictions. He has applied God's will to his own life, and he resisted changing the good habits he had formed.
5. _____ to God requires great effort, especially when we find ourselves moving AGAINST the flow of comfort and convenience.
6. Lessons we can learn from Daniel’s life:
 - A. Daniel wasn’t willing to _____ his standards.
 - B. God was the _____ aspect of Daniel’s life.
 - C. Daniel used his _____.
 - D. Daniel didn’t _____ when hardships came.