

HOW TO NAVIGATE THESE CRAZY TIMES

Part 2: When the Pressure Gets Turned Up

THE PRESSURES OF OUR CURRENT CULTURAL CLIMATE

- Relevant to our day but not unique; also present in Daniel's Babylon
 1. Man's voice, not God's principles, are the loudest voice
 2. Lack of respect for God and a Godly heritage
 3. Highly volatile
- But God never intended His people to isolate or run from the culture
 1. We are to be in this culture but this culture is not to be in us
 2. His will is that we stand out as lights in the dark (**Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV**)
 3. Good works are good actions

DANIEL'S RESPONSE WHEN THE CULTURE TURNED VIOLENT

- Babylon's best and brightest had no answers (**Daniel 2:10-13 NKJV**)
 1. Faced with their limitations - and they had no connection with their gods
 2. They had no power to change their situation - which was fatal
- Daniel responded to the pressure differently (**Daniel 2:14-19 NKJV**)
 1. He spoke with counsel and wisdom
 2. He responded with faith, not fear
 3. He believed God had an answer to this pressure filled situation
 4. Acted as if he had a relationship and a confidence in God
- Daniel exalted God (**Daniel 2:26-28 NKJV**)
 1. Quick to point out that what man could not do - God could
 2. Because of his God connection Daniel was promoted

NAVIGATING THESE CRAZY TIMES

- We respond to the pressures of our culture differently
 1. Gracious not condemning or clamoring - operating on a higher level
 2. We act as if we're on the winning team (**Philippians 1:27-28 NKJV**)
- The source of our confidence is our connection with the living God
 1. To those who don't believe He is far off or nonexistent
 2. Because of what Jesus has done we have a close connection (**Eph 2:12-13,19 NKJV**)
- Understand that the culture's best and brightest are still short on answers
 1. Science can not mend a broken heart or sorrowful spirit
 2. Man still has no answers for our toughest questions
 3. But there is a God in heaven - and He has answers and solutions