



Date: March 16 - 17, 2019

**Building a Better Foundation (Part 2)
(You Must Learn Before You Build)**

Text: Daniel 1:3-4

Big Question: How do you **build** in a hostile environment? Listen and Learn

Big Point: Your circumstance may not have originated because of your behavior, but you must manage it.

Important Balance: I don't endorse slavery or encourage people to stay in bondage. But, sometimes you are in circumstances that will not change right now. What can you do to win in an **un-winnable**, hostile environment? You can't leave your family, you can't leave your circumstances at this season, so what can you do? This is not a sermon about deliverance in the way Christians normally describe it. This is about a hostile environment that follows you **all of your life**.

Question: How do you balance your faith in the miraculous with the realities of a long-term challenge?

- A. Remember the whole council of God. (Acts 20:27)
- B. Remember some victories come different ways (Hebrews 11:13)
 - 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised...(NIV)
- C. Remember this is an **eternal** journey not just an **earthly** journey

I. Learn the New Expectations

Note: Nebuchadnezzar had eight expectations. The children of Israel had to learn how to build their new life foundation around his expectations.

1. You should learn what they will expect from you

- 3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, **4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.**

2. You should learn what they will call you (What they called them did not change who they were)

- 6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them **the chief of the eunuchs gave names:** he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

Note: Nebuchadnezzar's Expectations:

- 1. He wanted **ordinary** people (some of the children of Israel)
- 2. He wanted **trained** people (the king's family)
- 3. He wanted some **leaders** (the nobles)
- 4. He wanted people that had taken good **care of themselves** (No blemish, good-looking)
- 5. He wanted young **gifted** people who were wise
- 6. He wanted young people who were **knowledgeable**
- 7. He wanted young **quick** learners (They all had to learn a new language)

8. He wanted people who could serve at the King's palace

II. Understand the Goals of Those In Power

1. Their goal was to have a **mixture** of talent
2. Their goal was to clearly articulate a **clear** vision of what they wanted
3. Their goal was to **get the best** even if it meant discriminating (everybody could not be chosen)

Conclusion:

III. Understand The Why's of Those in Power

Note: They have decided what they want to accomplish? (Have you decided what you want?)

- A. They wanted people that were **gifted** enough to **help them**?
- B. They wanted people **wise** enough to **help** them?
- C. They wanted people **knowledgeable** enough to **help** them?
- D. They wanted people **quick** enough to **help** them?

Question: How does this all of this apply to you?

1. You must learn how to **manage your current challenges** that will be around for a while.
2. You must work to **understand those that have power over you** during this season of your life.
3. You must **trust God during hostile seasons** that last longer than you desire.

Next Time: How To Build a Better Foundation In a Hostile Environment (*Part 2 Continued*)

Question: Are you trained enough for a hostile environment?