



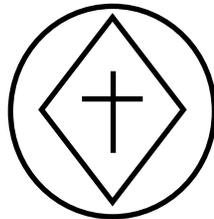
WISDOM IN RESISTANCE DANIEL 1 & MATTHEW 22:15-22

Daniel's New Reality (vv.1-7)

“Exile was a period when the promises of the past and the shape of the future had to be evaluated in terms of a new experience without the traditional self-validating structures, such as the monarchy and the state, the temple and the institutional cult.” ~ D.F. Morgan

Daniel's Guiding Resolution (v.8a)

“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself...” (Daniel 1:8a ESV)



“And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s’. Then he said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”

~ Jesus (Mat 22:20-21)

Daniel's Humble Resistance (vv.8b-20)

“They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

~ Jesus
(John 17:16-18 & Mat. 10:16)

God's Quiet Sovereign Loving Saving Presence (v.21)

God of this morning, gladly your children, Worship before you, trustingly bow,
Teach us to know you always among us, Quietly sovereign—Lord of the now.”
~ Margaret Clarkson *“God of the Ages, History's Maker”*

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read Daniel chapter 1 and Matthew 22:15-22. Does anything stand out to you? What are some ways these two passages connect with each other?
2. Daniel's resolution to temporarily abstain from food from the king's table, yet submitting to (and utilizing parts of) secular education, appearance, and names in service to the king, is an example of his resolve not to defile himself. Why do you think he made this choice? How does that help inform you about living for God in our cultural moment?
3. Neither the author of Daniel, nor Jesus in Matthew, provides a clear list of “do's” and “do not's” when it comes to living faithfully in a corrupting culture. What might the reason be? How does this challenge you to live?
4. Where do you see Daniel demonstrating Christ-likeness in his act of resistance?
5. Spiritual Exercise: Read Daniel's resolve and Jesus' exhortation again. Pray about them. Listen to the Holy Spirit prompting you. Is this resolve of heart one you share with Daniel? Do you need to make it? Do you need to honor it today?