

When Your Boss Is A Jerk And The Company Is Corrupt

A Brief Look Back:

Colossians 3:17, 23-24/ Mark 10:42-45

- (1) We don't have a **job**. We have a **ministry assignment**.
- (2) The path to **greatness** is found in the path of **service**.

Dead-end Jobs, Unfulfilling Assignments, Jerk Bosses and Corrupt Companies

✓ A Man Named Daniel:

Daniel 1-6/ Revelation 18:1-24

✓ Five Lessons To Take Home:

- (1) Every job **stinks**. There is no **perfect job**.
Genesis 3:17-19
- (2) God is in **control** of who's in **control**.
Daniel 1:1-2/ Romans 13:1-2
- (3) If you can't find a **better** job, this must be the **best** job.
- (4) If you can't respect the **person**, respect the **position**.
Daniel 1-6/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26 / Titus 3:1-2/ 1 Peter 2:13-23
- (5) If you want to be **influential**, become **invaluable**.
Daniel 1:20 & 6:3-5/ Colossians 3:22-24/ Ephesians 6:5-8/ Jeremiah 29:1-14

Food for Thought
For the week of September 9, 2012
(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. Larry explained that King Nebuchadnezzar's plan was to assimilate Daniel and his friends into the Babylonian culture, customs and religion. The pressure to conform was intense. While not as intense, we too face pressure to conform to the world around us. What are some of the pressures you face in today's world that try to mold you into something other than what God wants?

It was Daniel's outlook that allowed him to thrive despite the pressures of a godless culture. What are some truths in the following passages that could help us thrive despite the pressures we face in our culture today?

Psalm 119:9-11

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By living according to your word.

[10] I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

[11] I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you. [NIV]

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. [NIV]

1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. [14] As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. [15] But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [16] for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." [NIV]

James 1:22-24

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. [23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [NIV]

James 4:4-8

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."

[7] Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [NIV]

2. One key to learning to respect the position even though you can't respect the person is humility. The level of our humility is often revealed in how we respond to those who oppose us. How does Romans 12:9-16 help us better understand and define what godly humility looks like?

Romans 12:9-16

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. [11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. [13] Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. [NIV]

3. Daniel is a great example of someone who saw his job as a ministry assignment. He and his friends consistently viewed themselves as servants of God. Maintaining a similar perspective is one of the keys to influence. What do the following passages say about the kind of mindset that we should strive for as servants of God?

Luke 17:7-10

"Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? [8] Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? [9] Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? [10] So you also,

when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' " [NIV]

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

[21] "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

[22] "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

[23] Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

[24] When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. [25] Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. [26] Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- [28] just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." [NIV]

What do you find most challenging about the attitude expressed in these verses?