

OBJECTIVE:

To look at the varying ways in which we can witness within the workplace or daily environment in which the Lord has placed us: Daniel: A Case Study:

Introduction

Pressured, guilty, awkward, inadequate, unworthy – these can all be words to describe how we feel when it comes to sharing our faith in Jesus, with those we find ourselves amongst on a daily basis. What words come to mind when YOU think about sharing or representing Christ in the workplace?

So Just WHAT Are We Sharing?

Paul's letter to the Romans gives us two big clues:

Romans 10:8-13

Romans 10:14-17

We are sharing THE GOSPEL: What should our approach to sharing be?

Romans 1:16

So in What WAYS can we share or witness for Christ?

It is a **COLLECTIVE** witness:

In the things we do NOT do:

Daniel 1:1-8 – in what ways might WE abstain from certain things as a witness – without being judgmental? (Gossip, crude jokes, skiving off, drunken nights)

Using our GIFTING for the benefit of those around us:

Daniel 1:17-20 – in what ways could we use our God-given gifting for others in our workplace? (ministry of encouragement, helps, service, leadership, organisation...)

Praying for the Boss and the Business Issues:

Daniel 2:10-20 – All of the Kings ‘employees’ were in deep trouble (vs12) – to say the least ☺ . Daniel prays about the situation and also asked others to as well – we need to share our work issues to allow others to pray! What issues at YOUR work could you be praying about and asking others to? (threat of redundancy, work stress...).

Daniel spoke to the Commander of the King’s guard; and the King – perhaps he witnessed to the fact that he would seek the Lord on the matter.

When things are stressed at work (& people) – letting them know that you are praying can be very powerful – it demonstrates where your source of wisdom and power lies – and challenges them to assess where theirs may be.

Be Willing to stand up for Justice & Give God the Glory – Honouring Him:

Daniel 2:24-28 - Daniel was respectful –he went to the Commander first – and asked to be taken to the King (vs24). He showed concern for justice and care for others – not just himself, ‘do not execute the wise men of Babylon’. Often we can try to ‘blow other people’s candles out’ – looking out for our own glory only.

“Blowing someone else's candle out – does not make yours burn brighter”

Daniel found himself before the King – and gave God the Glory (vs28).

Do others see us as caring for them? Do we show concern for the plight of others – or are we too wrapped up in our own cause?

How might we practically show concern and help others? (help them write a letter of concern, if in a position of authority – fairly represent them before others, endeavour to understand their pressures – sick children etc, show a willingness to understand).

Daniel could have taken all the plaudits – but refuses to do so – he wants to honour the Lord (vs28). How might WE be able to do the same when people question our attitude/approach to work/life in general?

(Maybe people think we are kind, helpful – we could honour the Lord and state how He is changing us – how we perhaps ‘used’ to be).

Be Honest in Your Assessments – But Respectful:

Daniel relays the dream (2:29-35), then interprets the dream (2:36-45).

The reaction of Daniel's boss is quite remarkable – he is in awe of the God of Daniel (2:46-47).

Be Prepared to Stand against Godless Practice:

Daniel 3:8-18 (Image of Gold)

What practices or things might we need to stand against in the workplace? (fiddling figures, overcharging, overworking).

If we DO stand up in order to honour the Lord – we can know His presence – things got very 'hot' for the 3 men of God – but they were able to withstand.

What was the result of the men's stand? (3:28) – their witness challenged the boss.

As People Get to know us – they will come to us with questions:

Daniel 4:9&18 – The King acknowledged that the Spirit of God was with Daniel – so sought his advice – what sort of things might/have WE been asked? (Pray for my mum....'I've been reading the Bible..').

Be Prepared to State the Truth & Hope of God's Word – as it is:

Daniel 4:19-27 – Daniel is open and honest – he seizes the opportunity. Note that Daniel was 'terrified' (vs19) – yet interprets the dream. Daniel applies God's Word to the King, calls him to repentance/to turn around (vs27), to submit to the Lord (vs25). "I am not ashamed of the Gospel – for it is the power unto salvation" (Romans 1:16) – what opportunities have WE had recently?

There may not be an immediate Response:

Daniel 4:28-32 – 'Twelve months later' (vs29), yet it is the Lord who directly convicts ("Salvation belongs to our God") (vs31).

Lives will be changed:

Daniel 4:34-37 – The King's Testimony

You will gain a reputation of being trustworthy:

Daniel 5:13-14 – before a new King (Belshazzar) – people talk. What is YOUR reputation like? Critical, gossip...or wise, helpful...?

There may well be opposition & jealousies:

Daniel 6:3-5 (New King – Darius) – work colleagues scheming. Have you ever felt victimised for your faith?

We should not be discouraged from openly declaring and showing our faith:

Daniel 6:10 – Daniel openly prayed – in what ways might we demonstrate our faith? (what we publicly read, screen saver, look at starting a workplace Christian Union, pray with others in our lunchtime or after work).

Our Trust in Christ in the middle of our trials will be a great witness:

Daniel 6:16-23 – Daniel gave glory to God for his deliverance – and demonstrated a real trust – leaving the judgement on others to God (6:24).

Our Witness will have a wide impact – often beyond what we could imagine:

Daniel 6:25-27 – the whole Kingdom was influenced by Daniel's witness – what sort of influence might we be in our workplace?

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" – 1Peter3:15