



**How To Build a Better Foundation
(Train Before You Build In A Hostile Environment, Part 3)**

March 24, 2019

Text: (Daniel 1:5-21, NKJV)

Series Question: How to build a better foundation in a hostile environment (Listen, learn, train and focus)

Hostile Defined: Antagonistic, aggressive, combative, and confrontational.

Big Question Today: Are you trained enough for a hostile environment?

Potential Hostile Environments: Marriages, Religious Environments, Business Relationships, etc.

I. Be Well Trained

5 And the king appointed for them a **daily** provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and **three years of training for them**, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. 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.

- A. They were in a **daily** training program (v5)
- B. They were following a daily **diet**
- C. They were training daily for **three years**
- D. They had to complete their training. (v5 "at the end of that time they might..")

**II. Have Strong Convictions
("A firmly held belief or opinion")**

8 But **Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself** with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore **he requested** of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now **God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill** of the chief of the eunuchs.

Note: Their approach and attitude while managing this hostile environment was mature, realistic and forward thinking.

- A. He **requested** to eat another diet (He did not have enough power to demand it.)
- B. He had **developed** favor and good will (Have you developed favor and good will?)

Question: How well do you build relationships in hostile environments?

**III. Have Respect for Leadership
That Has Power Over You**

Note: Romans 12:3, "...not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think, but to think soberly."

1. They listened to the concerns of others

- 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "**I fear my lord the king**, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then **you would endanger my**



head before the king."11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

Question: Do you care about the other side of the issue?

2. They offered a fair plan (Are you willing to be tested?)

- 12 **"Please test your servants** for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then **let our appearance be examined before you**, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and **as you see fit, so deal with your servants.**"

3. They demonstrated good results (They had results to back up their convictions)

- 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.15 And **at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.** 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and **gave them vegetables.**

4. They were able to perform and deliver at a high quality

- 17 As for these four young men, **God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

5. They impressed the king

- 18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; **therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding** about which the king examined them, **he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus**

Note: They received God's best in a hostile environment

Next Time: March 31, 2019, Youth Sunday