

Radio broadcast script
6/18/06 broadcast

*Well, good morning. Welcome to the broadcast today, my name is Bill Young and you're listening to "Faith is a Lifestyle". This week we're continuing our study of "**Walking in Excellence**". We began this study last week in the book of Daniel chapter six. Let's turn there and pick up where we left off last week.*

Dan 6:1-4 KJV

6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

*We saw last week that there were some character traits that were evident in Daniel that contributed to this excellent spirit that was in his life. The first was faithfulness. Daniel was faithful in his life, that simply means that he was consistent and sure or steady. He could be depended upon. Faithfulness is a critical ingredient to a life of excellence. In fact Paul in his writings to the church in **I Corinthians chapter 4** says this;*

1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Notice that he said that **faithfulness is a requirement, not a suggestion**. You will make one of the biggest mistakes of your life if you promote an unfaithful person into a position of authority in your business. You are asking for trouble if you put an unfaithful person into a position of leadership in your church. Faithfulness is one of those character traits that are very easy to see in a person's life. Are they consistent in their attendance? Are they prompt and do they show up on time? Do they handle small tasks well? Remember, it was Jesus who said in **Luke chapter 16**;

Luke 16:10 KJV

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

It is not little or much that is the issue, but rather it is faithfulness. If you are not faithful enough to do a basic thing like showing up on time, what makes you think you are ready to be the next department manager or the CEO? If you can't be faithful in small things, God will not promote you to a position of handling big things for one big reason, a lack of faithfulness.

Last week we studied the life and ministry of Elisha the prophet. Elisha was promoted to the office of prophet in Israel because he was faithful in serving Elijah for over ten years. **He was referred to as "the guy who poured water on Elijah's hands"**. Although Elisha had that mantle cast upon his shoulders, which represented the anointing of the Holy Spirit, there was a period of growth and development that had to take place in his life before he stepped into that role as the Prophet of Israel. He was faithful in helping Elijah before promotion came. **In II Kings chapter 2**, when Elisha asked for a double portion of the anointing

*that was on Elijah, Elijah said to him “**you have asked a hard thing...**” The Hebrew word for hard here simply means tough. In other words it is not easy. Everything in life that is good is not necessarily easy. It takes discipline, self control and faithfulness to walk in excellence.*

*Now, let’s go back to **Daniel chapter six** and notice something else that this passage says about the life of Daniel.*

Daniel 6:4 KJV

*4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; **but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.***

*When Daniel was promoted to this chief of staff position in Babylon, which is modern day Iraq, they launched an investigation into his life. Guess what, they came up with nothing that they could use against him! The two words translated error and faults are Aramaic words that simply mean corruption, or to find something amiss. **Daniel was not only faithful, but he had integrity. Integrity is vital to your living a life of excellence. Character does matter.***

I remember when I was a junior in high school on the track team. I had a slight hamstring pull and the coach had me do a light workout and he sent me back to the locker room early. In our school the track team used the men’s locker room while the baseball team used the girl’s locker room if we practiced at the same time. As I came into the locker room I saw one of the baseball players in our locker room and he happened to be opening every locker and reaching his hand into pants pockets looking for money. I could hardly believe what I was seeing. The amazing thing is that when he saw me come in he just smiled and kept opening lockers rummaging for change. I just stood there and watched as he opened my locker and I said “would you get your

hand out of my pockets man, what do you think you're doing?" That is when he finally stopped, smiled and said "Oh I'm sorry man, I didn't mean to steal from you". Yeah, right. This guy was a thief. Now here is the amazing thing about this man. He had just been drafted right out of high school by a major league baseball team as a pitcher. He was 6' 5" with an arm like a cannon. That same arm that threw a 90 plus MPH fastball was so adept at stealing money out of lockers. I knew that day when I happened upon his little foraging expedition that he was destined to failure.

He went on to play minor league ball for a year or two and dropped out of sight. He never accomplished anything with the ability that he had. How often do we read about people with bright promise and talent who are destroyed because of a lack of character?

Psalm 15:1-5 KJV

15:1 A Psalm of David

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

*Now here in Psalm King David talks about the requirements if you will for dwelling in the tabernacle of God. Think of it this way, here is what you need to do if you want to experience God's presence on a consistent basis in your life. In **verse 2**, the word upright is the Hebrew word **Tamiym**. It means without blemish, complete, perfect, and whole. It is the Old Testament definition of integrity. If you want to walk in excellence you must be a person of integrity.*

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