

Series: Going Public with Your Faith (Part 2)

Build a Reputation

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Announcements

Coming October 18: Les will share a 10 year vision and strategy for Westwood in the immediate future.

Scripture: Daniel 2:48-49, 5:29, 6:3-5, 16-23

⁴⁸ Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. ⁴⁹ Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

²⁹ Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Group Session

Opening Question

Who do you know in your work place, your neighborhood, or your group of friends that you would be most shocked to catch sharing the gospel with someone else? Why?

Would people be surprised to see you sharing your faith with someone.

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. The bottom line of today's message is this: "God calls some men and women to leave the workplace for professional ministry, but all followers of Christ go to work to serve God and others." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. Life-Changing Lesson 1 is this: **The premise that some work is sacred and some is secular is an unbiblical notion.**
3. Pastor Les said that "Our character is linked to God and His is linked to us." Talk about this in both directions. a) How is our character linked to God? b) How is His character linked to us?
4. Pastor Les made the statement that "The people who have had the biggest impact on the world were not professional ministers." What are some reasons this could be true?
5. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." How prepared do you think most believers are? What would you say tomorrow if someone asked that question?
6. Life-Changing Lesson 2 is this: **God calls us to honor Him in whatever work we do.** If we really practice honoring God with absolutely everything we do, what difference will that make in our reputation for Christ? How important is that in sharing the gospel? (Lost people won't listen to us if they don't respect us.)
7. It was said that "On Monday morning the church is wherever you are." How does that make you feel?
8. Life-Changing Lesson 3 is this: **Even when you work hard and faithfully, your character will be tested.** What are some ways you think our character will be tested? Any examples? What are some things to remember that will help us stand strong through tests?
9. Below are 7 Habits of Highly Effective Witnesses. Listen to them and pick one that you need to work on the most. Share what it is and why it needs the most work in your life.

7 Habits of Highly Effective Witnesses

- 1: Be prepared.
- 2: Be ready anytime, anywhere.
- 3: Develop your own personal style.
- 4: Be expectant.
- 5: Accurately define success.
- 6: Show someone else.
- 7: Pray for opportunities.

Closing Challenge

Share some ways that you can improve your reputation and respect with others.

Other Passages Referenced

Genesis 2:2-3, 15

By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of Creating that He had done. . . The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God.

Colossians 3:22-23

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Mark 6:7

And he summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

Romans 5:4

We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope for the hope that you have.

Matthew 11:18-19

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

Romans 8:19

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

Matthew 9:38

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.