

Living Our Faith in the Workplace

Matthew 5:13-16; Daniel

Following the lesson on Our Influence on Others, we'll finish up with applying those thoughts to how we can influence the people with whom we work.

Background Passage:

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 5:13-16

I'll remind you of a question I asked last week. How would you describe your light? Is it hidden? Barely smoldering? Weakly flickering? Burning brightly?

Biblical Example:

Today, let's talk about how we can make sure we are salt and light to our coworkers. To get us started thinking in that direction, I would like to use a great example from Scripture, Daniel. In the following passages, listen for relevant, practical ways Daniel lived out his faith as a government worker in Babylon.

Daniel 1:17-21 - ¹⁷And as for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every *branch* of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all *kinds* of visions and dreams. ¹⁸Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹And the king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service. ²⁰And as for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* conjurers who *were* in all his realm. ²¹And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

In what relevant, practical ways did Daniel live out his faith as a student in Babylon? _____

Daniel 6:3-5 - ³Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. ⁴Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find

no ground of accusation or *evidence* of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was *to be* found in him. ⁵Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God."

In what relevant, practical ways did Daniel live out his faith as a government worker in Babylon? _____

Practical Application:

What is our goal? Why is it important? What are we trying to do?

What is your biggest obstacle to living out your faith where you work?

What are your best ideas about how to live out your faith where you work?

What if you offend someone? Do you even care?

How can you minimize the risk of offending someone?

Matthew 7:6 - "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

How does Matthew 7:8 apply to our topic today?

How should we relate to our boss?

How should we relate to our employees?

How should we relate to coworkers?

How should we relate to customers?

Conclusion:

What are you going to begin doing to more effectively live out your faith in the workplace?