



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

Bible Study:



Read Daniel 1. Consider how Daniel KEPT his identity as a follower of YHWH even as he was being trained up in the ways of Babylon!.

The gospel in the story:



Salvation in Jesus fundamentally means a transformation from our former identity – sinners with a sin nature – to our new identity – redeemed children of God having righteousness in Jesus. In this story, the identity issue comes out Nebuchadnezzar’s attempt to change Daniel’s identity by giving Daniel and his friends Babylonian names. It is not coincidence that the Hebrew names all point to God’s nature, and the Babylonian names reflected different Babylonian gods. It is clear from the story (and the ones to come) that though their names were changed, their identities and their hope remained in the God of Israel!

Application

Head: Q&A key points:

Q: What does the Hebrew name ‘Daniel’ mean?

A: God is Judge

Q: What does the Babylonian name ‘Belteshazzar’ mean?

A: Bel will protect

Q: Who is Bel?

A: Some *powerless* Babylonian god

Q: Who protected Daniel and his friends?

A: YHWH, who is God MOST HIGH.

Heart: Memory Verse:

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Hands: How does this affect the way we live?

Daniel’s living conditions changed DRASTICALLY. And he was being tempted into becoming a powerful Babylonian. Yet, he stood firm in his identity as an Israelite. Discuss how we must stand firm against the challenges and distractions of our culture to stay true to our identity as Jesus’ People.

Home: How does this affect our household?

Discuss ways your household reflects your identity in Jesus to your friends and neighbors.

Generate a list of ideas how to be ambassadors for Jesus to others.