

SERMON SERIES: Among Lions

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Sermon Title:

“Culture Shift”

Introduction

This week we kicked off our new series “Among Lions”. This week, we focus on the beginning of the book of Daniel, asking ourselves what do we do when the culture shifts around us? We could freak out. We could just blend in. But rather than moving with the culture, we should hold fast.

- Share a moment from your life when you felt out of place or in an environment where you were out of your comfort zone. How did you handle it, and what did you learn from that experience?

Seek the Word

- Read Daniel 1:1-5. What stood out to you in the description of Nebuchadnezzar's siege on Jerusalem, and how God allowed it to happen?
- Read Daniel 1:6-19. Discuss Daniel's resolution not to defile himself with the royal food. How can pre-deciding our values and commitments help us commit to steadfastness when in the face of culture shifts?

Go Deeper

Read Romans 12:1-2. This passage encourages believers not to conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. How can applying this principle help us resist cultural pressures and maintain our identity in Christ, as seen in Daniel's example?

Talk About It

- When facing cultural shifts or challenges, do you tend to freak out, blend in, or live in a way that stands out from the culture? Why?
- Reflect on the concept of isolation and indoctrination mentioned in the sermon. In what ways have you experienced or observed these strategies in your life or community?
- How do you currently navigate your identity in Christ amid societal pressures and cultural changes?
- In what areas of your life do you need to resolve, like Daniel, to honor God regardless of cultural pressures? How can your small group support you in this commitment?

Wrap Up

Reminder: God is in control of who is in control.

Challenge: This week, reflecting on Daniel's resolve not to defile himself, choose one area in your life where you feel cultural pressures or societal norms might be influencing you in a way that contradicts your faith. It could be related to your speech, relationships, or personal choices. Find someone who can help you direct that area back towards God and away from culture.