

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

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I'm not a big goal setter ~ that way I'm not disappointed when I don't reach them. I know people and some of you may be like this – that not only have goals for themselves, but they have goals for the people around them (spouses, kids, and friends)

Goals are good, but they need to be accompanied by a principle.

Principle: It is always a mistake to decide what you want to do, before you determine who you want to be.

The reason is this – who you are will show up and impact what you do.

Illustration: Think about athletes, politicians, entertainers and see how who they are impacted what they do.

Your drive for accomplishment may move faster than your ability to handle the rewards for that accomplishment. We will be known by our character, not our accomplishments.

Maybe you've wondered why your accomplishments in life have left you feeling unfulfilled or in worse shape. It may just be that you never decided who you wanted to be before you began doing what you wanted to do.

The first time I remember reading this scripture, I had just entered the seminary and committed my life to being a preacher and it seemed like all the preachers I was close to at the time, their lives were falling apart. One had just run off with another woman and emptied the bank account while his wife was sick. Another was the most paranoid person I have ever known. He thought everyone was out to get him, and one was fired and deserved it, but decided to take down the church in the process – all of these people were great at what they did.

I remember reading this scripture during that time and thinking..."it's more important to decide now who I want to be as a man, than what I want to do as a preacher."

Daniel was a Jewish boy, kidnapped to Babylon, he was so talented and smart that he moved up the ranks to the top position in the land, and he served at least 3 Kings. His list of accomplishments were long but late in his life we find out what was behind those accomplishments.

Daniel 6:3-5

³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the Governors by his exceptional qualities that the King (Darius) planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

There was no choice to be made. Daniel was so far beyond second place ... Daniel was very good at what he did, he had many accomplishments.

⁴At this, the administrators and the Governors tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, (The other leaders knew he was not from here, how could he be in charge of everything, so they decided to investigate and find some dirt on him, some inconsistency in what Daniel said and what he did.) At this point, Daniel had had a long career in government dealing with money, power and all that goes with this. He could have easily used his position to make money for himself, or even take money that wasn't his. Women were at his disposal at all times.

***but they were unable to do so.* Amazing words. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy,**

Honest – foundation of every relationship you have. With myself (looking in the mirror sucking in my belly with God (agreeing with God about His standards with others...when I say yes, it means yes.)

Proverbs 24:26 *An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.*

Consistent – I always do what I say.

And neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵Finally 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.” (the only thing they could find wrong with Daniel was that he was committed to a different God than the Babylonians.)

Here is the key ...

Daniel 1:8 *but Daniel resolved not to defile himself...*when Daniel was a teenager he made the decision of who he was going to BE before he decided what he wanted to DO...

The truth is Daniel had very little control over what he was going to Do (and neither do we) but he had full control over what he would BE on the inside.

...set some goals. It's going to take some time, when you realize how much is at stake, you will know you are there.

YOU have to do this yourself. I can't preach this into you. We spend a lot of time focusing on how we look, or our resume looks, or the house or car, instead of who we really are on the inside.

You are going to BE something ...why not choose it for yourself instead of letting it happen to you...let God mold you into the person he designed us to be.

Momentum is a great thing. I want you to have momentum...

F/T X G = Mo Mom

Focus over Time multiplied by God = Mo(mentum) Mom

Opposite of this F/T X ME

EPH 2:10

Focus

We (I am) are God's workmanship

Time

Created in Christ Jesus to do (tense is future/time word) **Good works**

Multiplied by God

Which God has prepared in advance for us to do.