

What's a Stranger to Do?

Part 1

Slide Notations

Eli clip: Have to do what we learn from it!

What have we learned? Must have the will to walk away from something when we know we have been wrong...Or we can never have the fullness of God we are walking toward! *"Others may, I cannot!"* It's a new day/society/new "norms!"

Not everyone knows what they must do when they come to Christ!

What I had to do! Saved 37 years ago... knew inherently: Drugs/alcohol/sex-partnerships had to go! Martial arts training/Buddhist dabbling/ Randian egoism... had to go! Swearing/lying/cheating /conniving/self rule – had to go! Had to walk a new and life giving way! Didn't know the way/reasons... But knew the One who set me free/holy... And knew what I was doing/not pleasing!

Today, too many saved people don't know, and can't feel, what they're supposed to do!

Coming into the kingdom without a moral foundation!

Wanting to know what they get for giving up their old life; "what replaces the things I give up for God?" *LIFE! Uncompromised. Unstained. Real. Precious. Ordained... LIFE!*

Getting that Life requires separation – separation that is a matter of holiness, not isolation!

Separation Theology! "Having the promises of God let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God!" **2C7.1** Having the promises of His Fatherhood, let us purge ourselves from all immorality of the flesh and spirit to accomplish full separation for God in our love and respect for Him! "Confessing we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, we declare plainly that we are looking for a better country, a heavenly one..." **H11.13-16** "I beg you as aliens and resident foreigner's, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul..." **1P2.11**

We are a separate class of people called to live at the high level of life of our homeland!

"I have given them Your word and the world hates them because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world. I'm not asking that You would take them out of the world but that You would keep them from the evil in it, separate them by Your truth! **J17.14-17** "So... come out from among them and be separate, touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you as a Father receives sons & daughters...! **2C6.17,18**

Issue is not isolation from world – but single source service: "Be not discordantly coupled for service. You can't pull the yoke for Me saved-unsaved, a little righteousness-little-un, some light-some darkness, little of Christ-little philosophy, little of this world-a little spirit..." **v14**

Separation Theology... To have the kind of life we want in God, we must cleanse, purge, purify, come out, stand aside, do what is necessary...To be separated, w/separated, to serve! Separation is not to establish a holy commune! But setting apart a powerful community to save men's souls! We separate, personally, from the world order/but do not isolate from the world!

We are strangers and foreigner's – but we are still HERE!

A Stranger Story... Ch 1 "And King Nebuchadnezzar commanded his chief to bring to him from among the sons of Israel, even from the seed royal and of the nobles, youths, without blemish, of goodly appearance, and understanding in all wisdom, possessed of knowledge, able to impart, and who had

vigor in them, so that they may be in the house of the king and be taught the letters and tongue of the Chaldeans... And the King appointed them their daily provisions of the Kings food and wine for three years, and at the end they would be examined by the King. In the group was Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who were all renamed... But Daniel [along with his companions] purposed in his heart he would not defile himself with the kings food and drink (offered to idols)... at the end of three years they were examined! The King communed with them all and found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah! And in all matters of wisdom and understanding that the king quizzed them he found them to be ten times better than all the others of his kingdom!

Strange Lessons! *Just because we live in a worldly culture doesn't mean we must be enculturated! We can be in a foreign place and not be influenced by it! Being away, it could have been a small matter to compromise/taste/see/touch. But it would have been wrong! Daniel had the will to stand apart for God! Standing for God doesn't mean isolating from the culture, it means separating yourself to be used by God, in it! Didn't ask for a little Hebrew commune on the back forty... Didn't go to war with the people... In the palace, w/king, standing apart in integrity! Standing in a separate culture w/God we should be at the top of the game! And it should be the observation of others, not the advertisement of ourselves! "he found them 10x better than the people in his kingdom!"*

A Stranger Story... Ch 2 "The King dreamed a dream... and he called the magicians, astrologers, sorcerer's and the Chaldeans to tell him his dream. "Tell us your dream and we will tell you the meaning of it!" "The dream is gone; and if you won't tell me what it was, I will have you all killed! Tell me what it was and it's meaning and I will reward you!" "No one has ever asked such things of any one else..." And the king was furious and sentenced them all to death. Daniel heard about the incident and said, 'let's slow everything down.' And Daniel went in to see the king and ask for a space of time and told him he would tell him the dream and meaning. Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends to pray regarding the dream so that they would not perish with all the others... then the secret was revealed! Daniel praised God, and went in to the king... 'Are you able to tell me my dream and the interpretation?' "No man could do this king, but there is a God in Heaven that reveals secrets and makes known the things coming to pass. Your dream had to do with your future and the Lord has told it to me, not because I am wiser than the ones you condemned to death but because only the God of Heaven can reveal what you have demanded!" When the king heard his dream and the interpretation he fell down on his face and worshipped Daniel and commanded that an offering be made to him. Then the king said, "It is true that your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets!" Then he made Daniel a great man, with many riches, and made him ruler over the whole province and the chief of governors of the wise men and Daniel brought in his friends with him!

Strange Lessons! *The world will ask the ridiculous of us! Tip off: "No one could do this but the gods (or God!)" That's EXACTLY what we are here for! To be His hand extended! God is an expert at ridiculous! If He has men and women who are willing to speak up, pray, seek, wait and trust! God's stranger's are on hand to slow things down and save men's lives! You may find yourself, in a life of separation, saying things that frighten and amaze you! You have friends who can help you! Even the world will be awed when you step up to the plate! Make sure you make clear that you're not all that... but He is! When the world sees and hears God they will bow... Great rewards come from being separate and available for God to use! Bring your faithful friends along with you!*

A Stranger Story... Ch 3 The King made an image of gold and commanded all people of all nations to fall down and worship the image he set up when the music began to play; and whoever didn't fall down and worship the image would be burned in a fiery furnace. When it was discovered that Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego disregarded the order the king was furious. 'I will give you one more chance to obey the command and be pardoned, but if you don't do it right this time, who is the God that will

deliver you out of my hands?’ The young men answered, “We are not slow to answer you. If God who we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace, He will deliver us from your hand. But if He doesn’t you need to know we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image you set up!” The king’s anger changed his very countenance and he commanded the furnace to be heated 7x hotter than normal. He called his strongest guardsmen, had the boys tied up fully dressed and thrown in to the fire. The furnace was so hot that the fire killed the guardsmen that threw them in. And the young men fell down onto the furnace floor. Then astonished, the king asked ‘didn’t we throw three men in? How is it I see four, and the fourth looks like the Son of God? Then the king called out to the boys and they came out of the furnace without even the smell of smoke on their clothes. He said, “Blessed be the name of the God who delivered his servants who trusted in Him and have changed the king’s words. I make a decree that if anyone even speaks badly about GOD they will be destroyed because there is no other God that can deliver like this... and the king promoted them!

Strange Lessons! *The world may see the excellence of our God but it doesn’t mean they really get it! Went right from dreams to 90’ idols! From threats of death to fiery furnaces! People are watching to see if we’re going to take the compromising offers we get! If you have one faith, one plan, you will win no matter what! The way you face death may determine how others live life! Have to re-prove yourself over and over till death do you part! (lions ahead!) Ch6 Young people can change the world!*

Nice, informative, 19 point Bible Study!

The Big Lesson... “Bring me the cream of the crop so that they may be in the house of the king and be taught the letters and tongue of the Chaldeans...”

The house of the king is this world... The “cream of the crop” captives are us... The offer to know its ways, taste its sweets and feel its excitements is all for one simple purpose...

When the World invites you in, it is not to bless you but to use you to do damage to other believers! It wants to subvert us, so that we can be used to subdue the other captives!

Strangers who aren’t separate... Part of the problem, not the solution! Instead of standing out for God, we are reclining at the table of compromise! Instead of “Others may, I cannot” it’s “I did, so you can too!” Christians are no earthly good if they don’t have the will to stand apart! But we have the power to make the world bow in awe if we do!