

Establishing Personal Guardrails

- A guardrail is a system designed to reduce the risk of serious accidents and acts as a safety barrier to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous areas.
- **A personal guardrail is a deliberate choice to submit to a standard of behaviour.**
- Establishing guardrails in our life, will keep us safe from potential danger and shame.
- Refusing to put in place guardrails only moves us closer to the danger zone.
- Establishing boundaries helps us control our hungry fleshly appetite.
- Consider the consequences of living life with no limits?

In **605 B.C.** the Babylonian army under King Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city of Jerusalem. The Babylonians set out to destroy the Israelites identity and culture. They made Israel a slave state.

Daniel 1:3-4

- Nebuchadnezzar enriches himself with Israel's treasure, and the best and the brightest young men.

Daniel 1:5-7

- They gave Daniel a new name – “*Belteshazzar*.”
- **Daniel realized what was happening.**
Slowly they were stripping away everything he believed in.

Daniel decided to do something.

*Daniel 1:8 But Daniel resolved **not to defile himself** with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission **not to defile himself** in this way.*

- **Imagine the response!** This was a major insult to Nebuchadnezzar.
- **Daniel understood that to compromise our convictions will weaken our resolve.**
- Daniel decided enough was enough and by saying no, he could potentially lose his life.

- **Daniel made a decision because he could predict the end of his story.**

Daniel 1:9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.

God will use our guardrails to protect us and to redirect us.

Daniel 1:10-16

- Because of Daniel's stance, God used Daniel's decision to direct his life from then on.
- Daniel had no idea what hung in the balance of his decision and we have no idea what hangs in the balance of our decision to establish guardrails in our life.
- Maybe it will be a defining moment for you too?

God honoured Daniel's decision to stand by his convictions.

Daniel 1:17-21

- Refusing to establish personal guardrails, will erode our ability to say no!
- Our greatest regrets could have been avoided if we had established guardrails.
- God may use **THAT** decision we need to make to direct our entire life!
- What is **THAT** decision that you may need to make?

Application

- Like Daniel, we need to constantly make the right decisions to keep on track because we **KNOW** how our story will end if we don't!