

PICK UP THE PIECES

God desires for us to be people who can put a stop to brokenness and bring healing and restoration into the lives of others.

Daniel 1:3 (NLT)

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. 4 "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.

Daniel 6:7-11 (NLT)

7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human-being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. 8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing. 10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward

Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

Daniel excelled in:

- Body - Took care of his body/trained his body
- Mind - Dedicated himself to wisdom, knowledge and understanding
- Spirit - Was committed and faithful in his devotion to God

Daniel never shied away from responsibility or passed up an opportunity to do better, get stronger or fortify his spirit.

Our goal is to never just warm the seats we sit on on a Sunday. We goal is to utilise all that God has placed in our hands, for the good of others.

Daniel's life statement:

“Do the best with what you have, and leave the rest to God”.

Question - What is it that you have in your hands that you have maybe neglected to take responsibility for?

Any gift or talent that has been neglected is a gift or talent that has been robbed from those around you.

Daniel 2:1-19 (NLT)

1 One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. 2 He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, 3 he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means." 4 Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means." 5 But the king said to the astrologers, "I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble! 6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!" 7 They said again, "Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means." 8 The king replied, "I know what you are doing! You're stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say, 9 'If you don't tell me the dream, you are doomed.' So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I'll know that you can tell me what it means." 10 The astrologers replied to the king, "No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! 11 The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among

people.” **12** The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. **13** And because of the king’s decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends. **14** When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. **15** He asked Arioch, “Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?” So Arioch told him all that had happened. **16** Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant. **17** Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. **18** He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. **19** That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

This is the source of all human brokenness:

- *People who do not know how to control themselves*
- *People who have placed too much trust in themselves*

Daniel 2:14-16 (NLT)

“When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. He asked Arioch, “Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?” So Arioch told him all that had happened. Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.”

Daniel chose to PICK UP THE PIECES of those around him and do his best to bring salvation and restoration to the land.

Daniel 2:46-49 (NLT)

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. 47 The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret.” 48 Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. 49 At Daniel’s request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king’s court.

Sometimes all we have are broken pieces. But when we do the best we can with what God has given us and bring God into the situation, we can bring the pieces together in such a way where it becomes more beautiful than it was before.