

GOOD PREDECISIONS SET US UP FOR SUCCESS

"Predecisions are decisions we make before we have to make the decision."

- Predecisions give us the ability to make decisions _____ that will help us live the kind of life we want to live _____
- Predecisions have the capacity to keep us from making small and big _____ decisions
- Predecisions aid in _____
- Predecisions in matters of faith strengthens our _____

DANIEL'S PREDECISION

"Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. But he responded, 'I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded.' Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 'Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,' Daniel said. 'At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.' The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others. ¹⁷ God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and

wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams." – Daniel 1: 8-17, NLT

WHY DID DANIEL REFUSE TO EAT THE KING'S FOOD?

1. The food may have been _____ due to Jewish dietary restrictions
2. The food may have been offered as a _____ to Babylon's gods
3. Eating the king's food may have been _____ as Daniel accepting the king's friendship and patronage (support, authority over)

Whatever the reason for Daniel's refusal to eat the king's food, this **ONE PREDECISION** allowed Daniel to **WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD, MAINTAIN HIS INTEGRITY**, and it **RELEASED GOD'S BLESSINGS** in his life.

WE CAN REMOVE THE EMERGENCY OF THE MOMENT WITH GOOD PREDECIDING

1. We need to decide _____ the temptation how we will deal with it
2. We need to create _____ to avoid or remove temptations
3. We need to spend energy _____ an emergency not during it
4. Pre-deciding reduces the _____ of hyperbolic discounting (allowing ourselves to get closer and closer to something increasing the chance that we will succumb to the temptation)
5. Pre-deciding creates clear, unambiguous _____
6. Pre-deciding is strengthened by a desire to _____ God's Word