

## **Determined**

n/a

### **Ready:**

"Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself." –Daniel 1:8

### **Set**

When I think of a person who is determined, I think of someone who is strong and resolved; has deep inner convictions that drive their actions; ready to sacrifice; focused on their goal; and not easily distracted. I think of a person who refuses to give in and fights to the end. Teams that are determined will always give it their all. Determination is a great quality if it is for the right reasons.

The Book of Daniel begins with Nebuchadnezzar besieging Jerusalem. Defeat happened quickly, and God handed the king of Judah to Nebuchadnezzar who declared defeat of Israel's God and proclaimed his god, "Marduk," more powerful. But the game was not over. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, knew that God always wins and chose to trust Him.

Daniel and his friends were called into the king's service and spent three years in training where they were served the king's food and wine. This food and wine violated the Jewish dietary laws and, therefore, violated God's Word. Daniel resolved not to defile himself and asked permission to eat something different. Daniel knew God's way was the best and would not budge. God strengthened Daniel and his friends, honored their faithfulness, and they became leaders in Babylon.

### **Go**

1. Are you resolved to play God's way?
2. What convictions or values guide you?
3. Do the "chiefs" or "kings" in your life dictate how you live?

### **Workout**

Daniel 1:1-20; 1 Timothy 4:7-8

### **Overtime**

Heavenly Father, I want to be determined as Daniel was. Forgive me for being stubborn, cocky, and arrogant at times. Teach me what it means to be a godly man/woman. Give me discernment so that I will know how to behave. May I be a person who is ready to sacrifice if it means bringing glory to You. Amen.

**Bible Reference:**

1 Timothy 4



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