

May 14, 2023 | Steve Norby

Line in the Sand: a point beyond which one will not go; a LIMIT to what one will do or accept.

At times, a line in the sand must be drawn no matter what the CONSEQUENCES.

Considerations

- What values, needs, expectations are being CHALLENGED?
- In WHAT WAY did you draw the line (something you said, did, didn't do, etc.)?
- How might you describe the IMPACT on you or others of drawing the line in the sand?

I. Daniel RESOLVED not to defile himself. Daniel 1:8

I Resolve Hebrews 12:1-3

I resolve that since I am surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses I will throw off all that hinders & the sin that so easily entangles & run the race You have for me with perseverance. I will fix my eyes on You, Jesus, the author & perfecter of my faith. For the joy set before You, You endured the cross, scorning its shame & You now sit at the Father's right hand. I will consider You who endured such opposition, so that I will not grow weary of well doing.

II. Daniel made an APPEAL to his AUTHORITY. Daniel 1:8-12

III. Daniel EMPATHIZED with his authority. Daniel 1:10-14

IV. Daniel PRESENTED a PLAN that was reliant on God & took the concerns of the official into consideration. Daniel 1:11-14

The Result Daniel 1:15-21

The Lord graced the Hebrew young men to UNDERSTAND literature & learning. They were found to have great WISDOM. Daniel specifically could INTERPRET visions & dreams.

For Further Study

- What are issues for the follower of Jesus that merit drawing a line in the sand?
- Are there issues for which you draw a line in the sand but you would not expect others to do so? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to you to resolve not to defile yourself?
- How do you work with an ungodly authority who may ask you to take some sort of action that violates your convictions as a follower of Jesus?
- Do you believe that the follower of Jesus is graced with knowledge & wisdom that the ones who reject Jesus don't have? How does this equip such ones to be in the world but not of this world?

ANOINT

Next Sunday, May 21, is our end-of-the-year, all-church meeting where we review what happened this last year at GracePoint, appoint the Local Board for the next church year, adopt the budget & talk about our vision for what lies ahead for GracePoint. This will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions. This gathering will be an hour long; light refreshments will be served. All are welcome & members are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you all there!

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES

Beginning May 21 through August 6 we will offer two morning services at 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Nursery, KidsPoint & Point45 will also meet during both services.

SAVE YOUR STUFF

GracePoint Preschool is planning their annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser for Friday, May 19 & Saturday, May 20. If you'd like to donate items, please bring them to the Great Room beginning TOMORROW. We will be collecting gently used children clothing/shoes (no adult clothing), books, toys & indoor/outdoor household items. If you have questions or are planning to donate large items, contact Deann Stanley at the preschool (692-7217 or director@gracepointpreschool.org). Thank you for your support!