

NO COMPROMISE



TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

YOU MAKE THE CALL . . .

SCENE 1

It's near the end of the semester. You realize that you're failing biology. If you do, you lose your scholarship. Your roommate happens to have a work-study job in the biology department undergraduate office and helps out with all the printing the department does. They have easy access to a copy of the final. Your roommate offers to obtain a copy for you. "No one will ever know," your roommate says. "After all, you don't want to lose your scholarship, do you?"

SCENE 2

Your best friend is a computer whiz and can make anything with a computer, even fake I.D. cards that look exactly like the real thing. Since you're not 21 yet, you can't go to many of the hottest clubs or nightspots near campus. Your best friend asks, "Do you want me to make you one? You don't have to go to these places and drink. You can just mix and mingle, and have a good time. You don't want to miss out on a lot of good times, do you?"

SCENE 3

You've been dating a person exclusively for 6 months now. The topic of marriage has come up. They are pressuring you to have sex. You think to yourself, "Why not?"

"It's only wrong if you get caught." - Michael Moore,
 Rutgers University junior, author of
 "Cheating 101: The Benefits and
 Fundamentals of Earning the Easy 'A'".

 _____ ? _____

How do you respond?
 What initial thoughts run through your mind?
 How could a person try to justify or rationalize their behavior in each situation?

Let's look at some people that lived with "No Compromise" . . .



Daniel 3

3:1A,4-6 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, ... Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

3:12,15B-18 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." ... But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

3:19,22,25,27 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ... The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ... He said, "Look I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

3:28-30 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and abednego be cut into pieces and their houses turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



CONTEXT

Daniel the Prophet

According to Daniel 1:6, Daniel was one of the youths taken from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar (probably around 605 B.C.) to be trained for service in the king's palace.

Daniel the Book

One of the most prophetic books of the Old Testament, the book of Daniel provides the basic framework for Jewish and Gentile history from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until the second advent of Christ. It is divided into two parts: the first deals with Daniel's visions under Nebuchadnezzar, and his personal history to the reign of Cyrus (chapters 1-6); the second part deals with Daniel's great prophetic visions (chapters 7-12).

Daniel Chapter 3

Chapter 1 dealt with the training of Jewish youths for the king's service and Daniel's first test of obedience. Chapter 2 recounts Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream and his resultant promotion.

What did the king's decree command the people to do?

What did God's commandment say? (see Exodus 20:4-6).

How did the three respond? Why?

Describe the king's response:
1) to their refusal to worship the image;
2) during the fire; and
3) after they came out of the furnace.



NEBUCHADNEZZAR

He came to the throne about the time that Daniel was taken captive into Babylon, and was the most powerful and distinguished king of the Babylonian empire.






SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO



Daniel's three young friends who were also taken captive. They were to undergo a rigorous course of training after which they were to enter positions of responsibility in the royal court.




OBSERVATION

   **RATIONALIZATIONS**

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  **PRINCIPLES**

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 **THE SURVEY SAYS**



“How do you determine between right and wrong?”

57% - “I trust my feelings or my conscience.”

18% - “I use my mind or my common sense.”

4% - “I use the Bible as my standard.”

(tabulated from Daytona Beach BIG BREAK survey results)

  **PATTERNS**

“I always do it this way.”

“It seems quick, easy, and convenient.”

“I just felt like it was o.k. for me.”

“My professor says...”

“Nothing happened the last time I did that.”

“This is America in the 90s. Everyone thinks it’s o.k.”



PROCESS

- 1) RECOGNIZE situations where you are tempted to rationalize or compromise.
- 2) REALIZE what God's Word has to say about the situation you face.
- 3) REAFFIRM your desire to be uncompromising.
- 4) RESPOND biblically.

COMPROMISE!

"Clearly the youth of today didn't invent cheating, stealing, and lying, but they are perfecting it . . . In today's society, less than 2 percent of the high school and the college kids get caught. We're creating a society where cheaters do prosper, and we can't tell them, honestly, that honesty is the best policy."

—Ralph Wexler, vice president of the non-profit *Joseph & Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics*

WHY RESPOND BIBLICALLY?



THINK ABOUT IT



TO TELL THE TRUTH?

- Sixty-one percent of the high school students and 32 percent of the collegians said they had cheated on an exam during the past year.
- A third of the high school students and 16 percent of the college students admitted stealing something within the past year.
- More than a third said they would lie on a resume or job application to get work. Sixteen percent of the high school students and 18 percent of college students said they had already done so.

—from a two-year nationwide study (released in 1993) by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, surveying more than 6,000 high school and college students from more than 40 schools.



PERSONALIZE

Think of areas or situations in your own life where you are tempted to compromise. What steps do you need to take in order to respond biblically?

EXAMPLES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Daniel - Daniel 1,2,6

Mordecai - Book of Esther

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