

Daniel 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Analysis

The prince of eunuchs' response reveals the tension between personal favor and professional duty. He fears 'my lord the king' seeing the youths worse than their peers, resulting in his own execution ('make me endanger my head'). This shows the real cost of standing for convictions—others risk consequences for helping us. His legitimate concern demonstrates that faith sometimes requires us to request what puts others at risk, requiring wisdom and genuine divine direction rather than presumption.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings exercised absolute authority; failure in royal service often meant death. Court officials lived in constant fear of royal displeasure. Ashpenaz's concern was realistic—if Daniel's group appeared inferior after special dietary treatment, the king would view this as Ashpenaz's failure to properly train the hostages. Capital punishment for administrative failures was common in ancient empires.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Ashpenaz's legitimate fear challenge us to consider how our convictions might endanger others who help us?
2. What wisdom do we need when our faith stance requires others to risk themselves on our behalf?

Interlinear Text

אֶת אֲנִי יֵרָא לְדָנִיֵּאל הַסְּרִיסִים שֶׁר וַיֹּאמֶר
unto Daniel I fear H589 H853
H3373
said H559
And the prince of the eunuchs H8269 H5631

וְאֶת מַאֲכָלָךְ אֶת מֶנֶּה אֲשֶׁר לַמֶּלֶךְ: אֲדֹנָי
your meat H853
H3978
who hath appointed H853 H4487
the king H834 H4428
my lord H113

פְּנֵיֶיךָ אֶת יִרְאָה לָמָּה אֲשֶׁר מִשְׁתֵּיֶיךָ
your faces H853 H6440
for why should he see H834 H4100 H7200
and your drink H4960

כְּגִילְךָ אֲשֶׁר הַיְלָדִים מִן זָעַפְיָם
which are of your sort H834 H1524
than the children H4480 H3206
worse liking H2196

לַמֶּלֶךְ: רֹאשִׁי אֶת וְחִבַּתְתָּ
the king H4428
my head H7218 H853
then shall ye make me endanger H2325