**Series: Daniel – Counter Cultural**

**Today: Influence**

1. **The Impossible Dream**

***Daniel 2:1-4***

*In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. 2So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, 3he said to them, “I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means]”*

*4Then the astrologers answered the king, “May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”*

***Daniel 2:11-13***

*11What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.”*

*12This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. 13So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.*

1. **Calling the A-Team**

***Daniel 2:16-19***

*16At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.*

*17Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven…*

***Daniel 2:27-30***

*27Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.*

*30As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.*

1. **Statue of Limitations**

***Daniel 2:45-49***

*“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”*

**IMAGE OF DREAM**

<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/Z_e9693DYM0/maxresdefault.jpg>

*46Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. 47The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”*

*48Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. 49Moreover, at Daniel’s request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.*

**Competence + Character + Presence of God = Influence**

1. **You Are A Creative Minority.**
2. The Power of Prayer
3. The Power of Truth
4. The Power of Example
5. The Power of Solidarity

*“A Creative Minority is a Christian community of stubbornly loyal relationships, who are committed to practicing the way of Jesus together for the renewal of the world.”*