

STANDING STRONG – No Matter What Life Throws At You!

Part 3: Belittled

July 16, 2017

1. Briefly share a time when you stood up for something you believed in. Describe how you felt when you took your stand.
2. Most people don't care what you believe. But there are a vocal few who will belittle your faith. Discuss when this last happened to you. What was the conversation about and how did you defend your faith in God?
3. How could arguing with a skeptic harm the message of the Bible? Why can being a listening ear and an understanding presence help them understand God's love? What needs to be transformed in your life so that you can live a good life to silence those who condemn the gospel?
4. In what ways have you insulated yourself or compartmentalized your faith in Jesus in order to avoid having your faith belittled? What do you fear would happen if you were more open or less insulated?
5. Daniel gives us an example of someone who was indoctrinated against God's teaching for three years, yet grew in God's wisdom and understanding so his advice was far better than all the king's other advisors (see chapter 1). How do you think Daniel was able to keep his convictions in the midst of teaching that was contrary to what he believed?
6. Proverbs 1:7 (Mes): "Start with God - the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning." Starting with God requires that you read the Bible to acquire wisdom and learning. How can you set yourself up to take a stand for God?
7. Psalm 119:104 (NLT): "Your commandments give me great understanding. It's no wonder I can see and hate every false way of life." Reflect on a time you encountered the living Christ through the Scriptures. If you remember, share what you were reading at the time. How does Scripture help you know (not intellectually, but in your heart) about Jesus or about yourself? Discuss how meditating on the Bible's truth could positively change your life and/or how you relate to others.
8. In Proverbs 19:8, God's promises success for those who get wisdom and love learning. No matter our age, we can continue to learn. But it comes with a cost - our time. Examine how you spend your time. What changes can you make to grow in wisdom and understanding?