



### I. INTRO

- A. What's in a name
- B. Names make you react

### II. STOLEN IDENTITY

- A. The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

**Daniel 1:1-2 (NIV)** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

**Daniel 1:3-5 (NIV)** Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

- B. They are going to be indoctrinated in the ways of Babylon
  - They had to learn a new language
  - And they needed to learn a new way
  - Give them a new diet
  - They were renamed

**Daniel 1:6-7 (NLT)** Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Beltshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.

- C. In order to indoctrinate them into slavery they were renamed
  - **Daniel:** God is my judge to **Beltshazzar**, Lady protect the king
  - **Hananiah:** Yahweh has been gracious to **Shadrach**, I am fearful of God
  - **Mishael:** Who is what God is to **Meshach**, I'm despised, contemptible and humiliated
  - **Azariah:** Yahweh has helped to **Abednego**, servant of Nebo
- D. There is an agenda to do the same to you

### III. YOU WILL ALWAYS ACT LIKE THE PERSON YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE

- A. You will always act like the person you believe yourself to be
  - I'm called \_\_\_\_\_ because I \_\_\_\_\_



B. Our beliefs govern what we think, say and do

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NKJV) Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

C. Looking in the mirror brings transformational change

- Growth brings change and change is often difficult and painful

**1 Corinthians 13:11 (TLB) It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things.**

D. When something grows it's transformed

- Spiritual growth, like natural growth, transforms your ...
  - Your speech – baby talk (as a child I spoke as a child)
  - Your coordination – or your walk
  - Your strength – child has the same muscles just not developed
  - Your decision making – maturity
- Growth isn't automatic but takes time
- Feelings don't matter when it comes to growth

**Daniel 1:8 (NIV) But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.**

**Mark 12:16-17 (NKJV) So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.**