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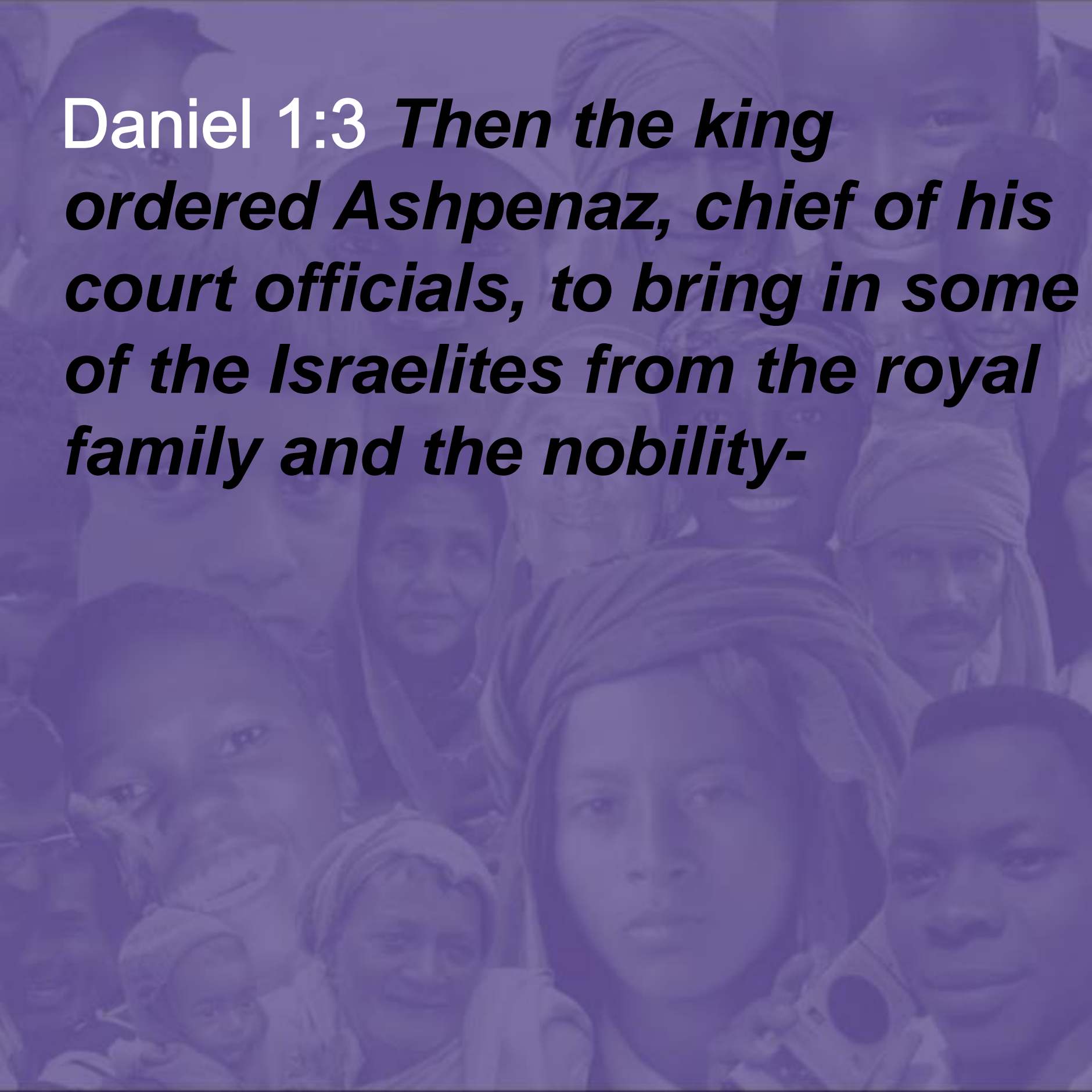
**Serving in Mission**

# Daniel 1:1-9

## Introduction:

- God led Israel to the promised land and promised blessings if they obeyed Him. (Deut 28)
- Disobedience brought cycles of judgment. 10 northern tribes were taken by the Assyrians
- Judah had 100 years to learn come to obedience and not have the same fate
- God raises up the Babylonians

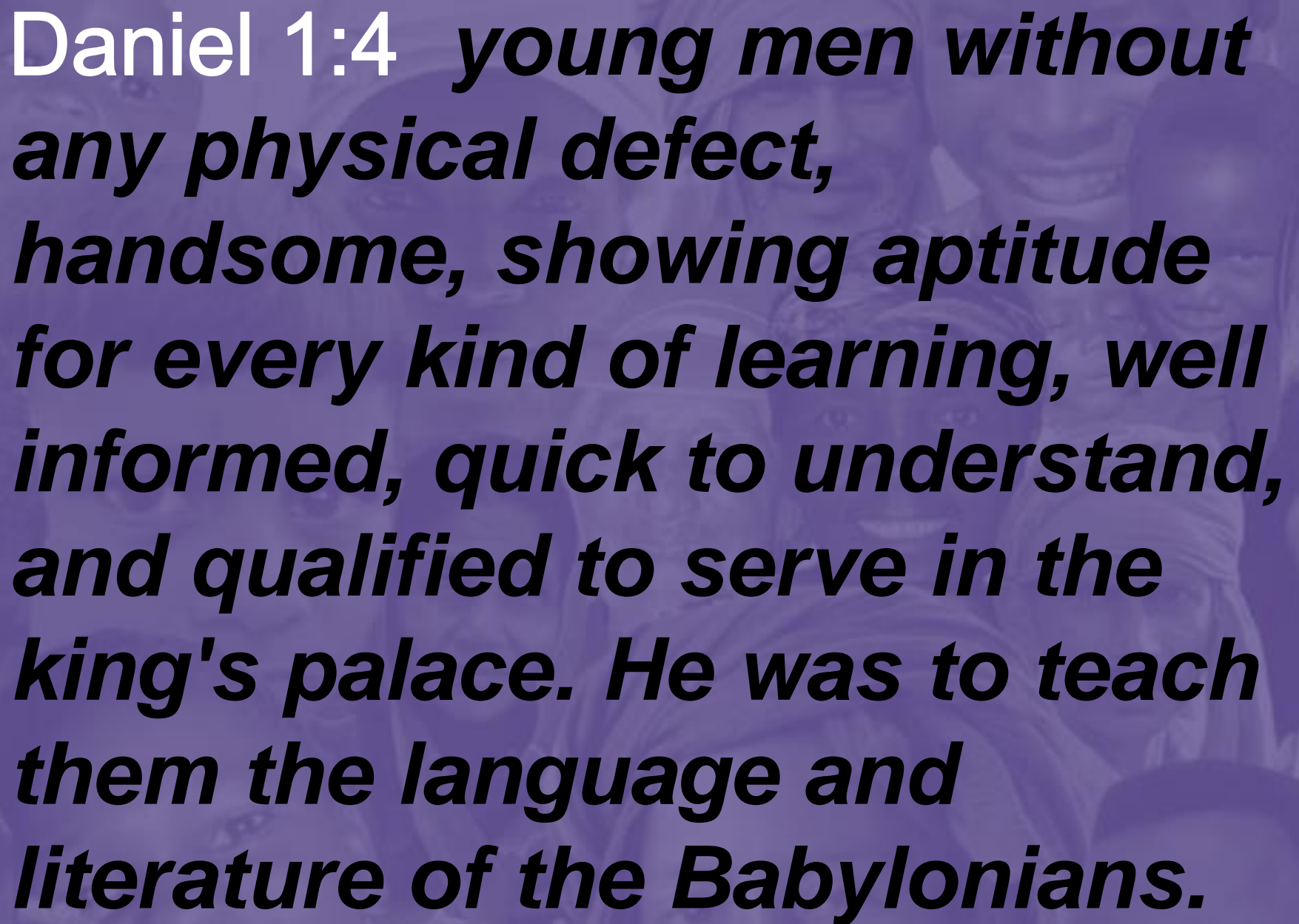
**Daniel 1:1-2** *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of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



**Daniel 1:3 *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility-***

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- Young men 13-17 captured, the future of Judah
- Others also captured and taken to Babylon to be slaves



**Daniel 1:4** *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.*

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- Taking hostages reminded the nobles that they should not revolt
- provided for him a think tank

# A Plan for Indoctrination

- Immersed in a culture with different values & world view
- Context inspired departure from their believe system
- In Babylon act like a Babylonian
  - They weren't being watched
  - No support pillars
  - You'll never get ahead if you don't blend in
- Where was God in Judah's defeat?



# Changing Their World View

## 1. A Change of Diet V5

***The king assigned them a daily amount of food & wine from the king's table***

# Changing Their World View

1. A change of diet V5a
2. A change of education V5b

***They were to be trained for 3 years***

- Babylon was at it apex
  - Art and Architecture
  - Astronomy
  - Mathematics
  - Medicine
  - Literature

# Changing Their World View

1. A change of diet V5a
2. A change of education V5b
3. A change of career V5c  
***and after that they were to enter the king's service.***

# Changing Their World View

1. A change of diet V5a
2. A change of education V5b
3. A change of career V5c
4. A change of name V6-7

***The chief official gave them  
new names:***

Daniel to Belteshazzar

Hannaniah to Shadrach

Mishael to Meshach

Azariah to Abed-Nego

# Why Make These Changes?

An effort at total indoctrination, wanting to make these young men leave behind their God & culture.

## **Satan uses a similar strategy**

- Feed on what the world offers
- Identify ourselves in reference to the world
- Educate ourselves in the ways of the world
- Enjoy the delicacies of this world and what it offers

# What did Daniel do?

**Daniel 1:8 *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.***

## What did Daniel do?

**Daniel 1:8 *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.***

To defile means *pollute or stain*

1. Horse or pig wasn't kosher
2. Offered to idols by sacrifice
3. Endorsement of the culture
4. Disobedience of God

# What did Daniel do?

- Daniel did not object to the name given to him, because he knew who he was
- Daniel did not object to the Babylonian education, because he knew what he believed.
- Daniel did object to the food from the king's table, because it to eat it was direct disobedience to God's word.



# A Courageous Decision

- Daniel knew who he was
- Daniel knew what he believed.
- Daniel chose to obey God
- Daniel **purposed in his heart,** (making up his mind *beforehand*) that he would not compromise.
- knowing this would cost them something.

# The results of Daniel's Courage

Daniel 1:9

**Now God had caused the official to show favour and sympathy to Daniel,**

# Application Points

1. The Babylonians wanted to mould the exiles to conform to their patterns and system

Where has the world squeezed you into its mould?

# Application Points

1. Where has the world squeezed you into its mould?
2. How long do we have influence over those we love?

Are we faithfully teaching the word of God so they will have a firm foundation when our pillars of support are gone?

# Application Points

1. Where has the world squeezed you into its mould?
2. Are leaving firm foundations for those we teach?
3. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself

-That is where it must happen

***Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life*** Proverbs 4:23

***We need Daniels desperately.***



**SIM**

**Serving in Mission**



# The Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am a part of the Fellowship of the  
Unashamed.

I have Holy Spirit Power.

The die has been cast.

I have stepped over the line.

The decision has been made.

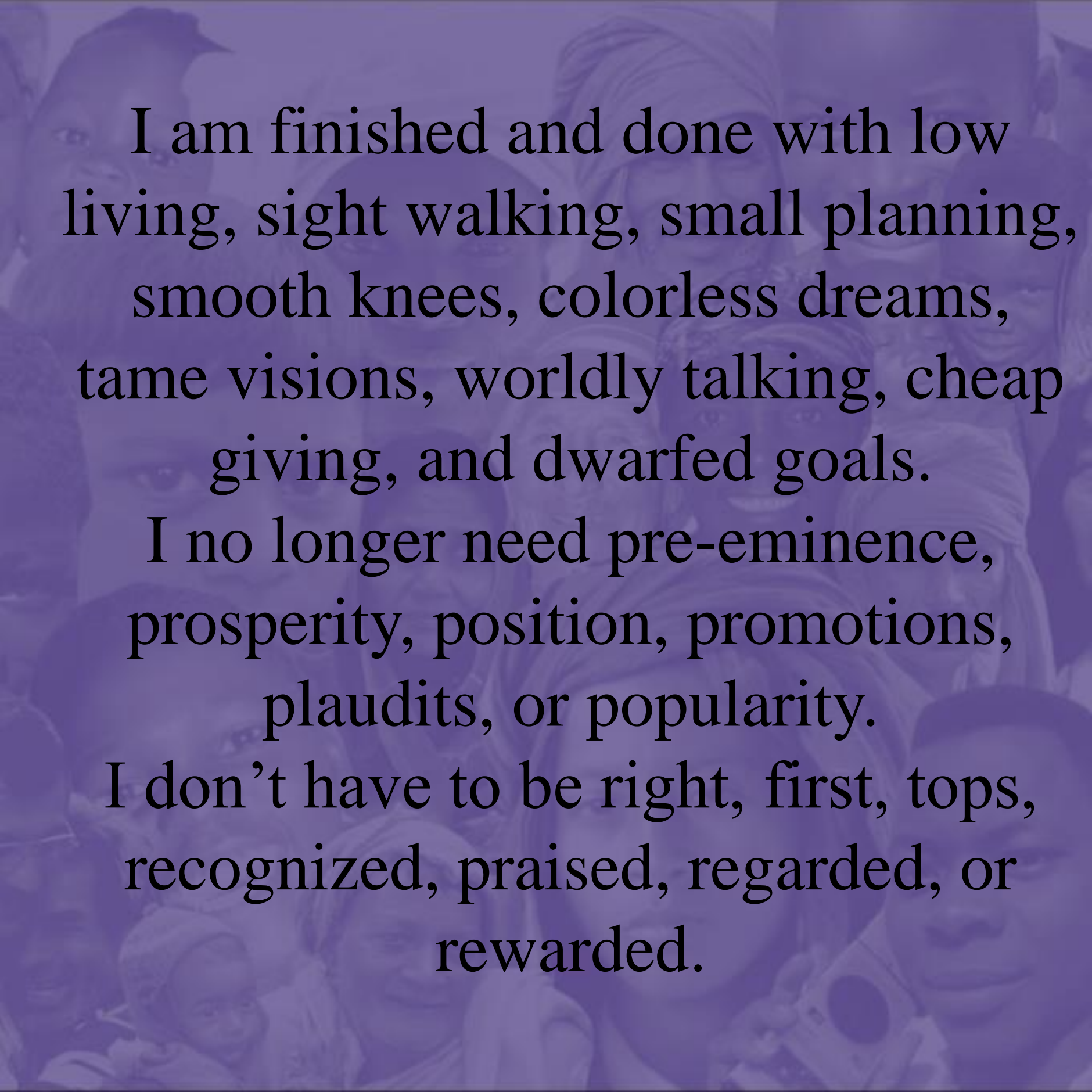
I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I won't look back, let up, slow down,  
back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present  
makes sense, and my future is  
secure.



My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, My way is rough, my companions few, my Guide is reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.



I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity.

I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded.

I now live by faith, lean on His presence, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labour by power.

I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and spoken up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He stops me.

And when He comes to get His  
own, He will have no problem  
recognizing me.

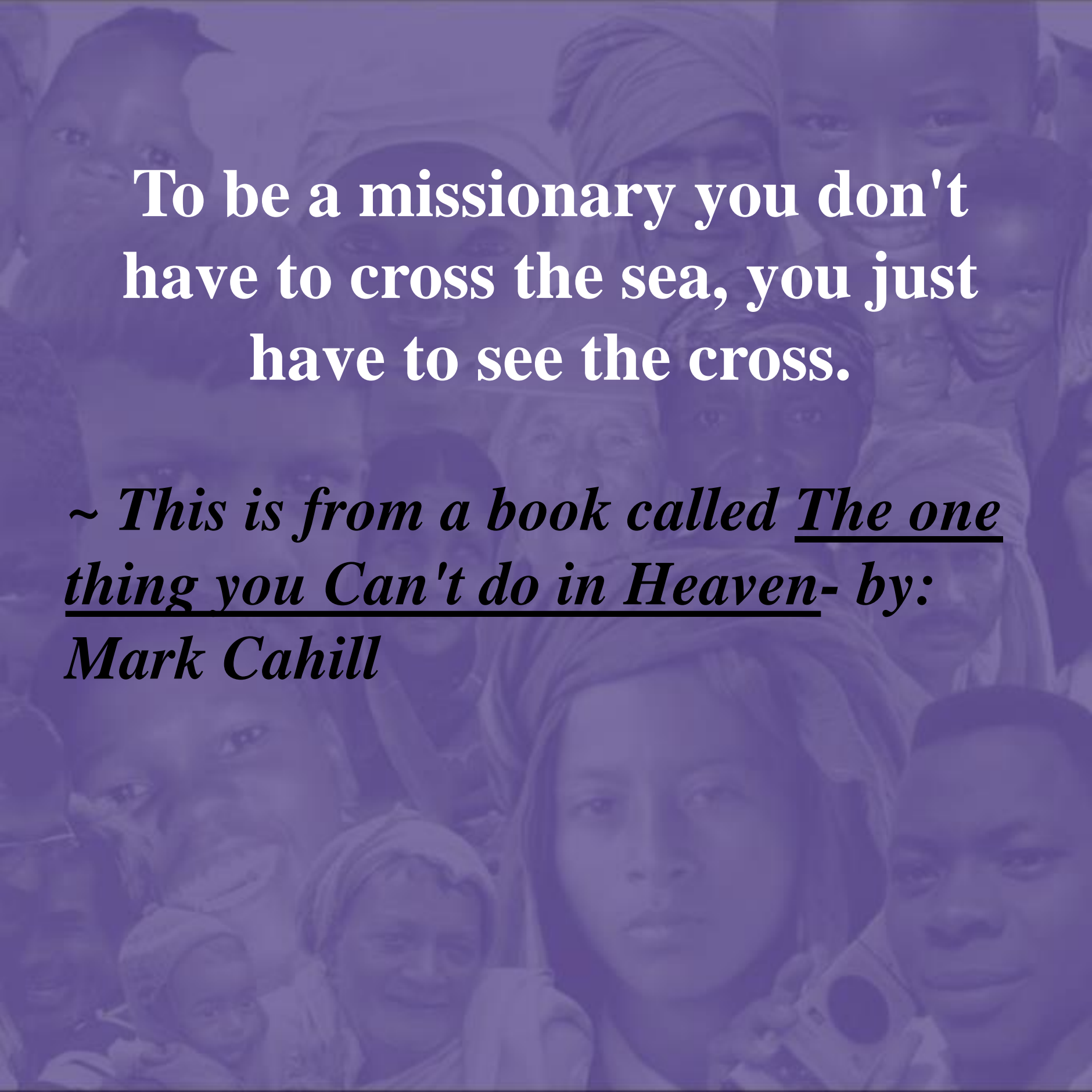
My colours\*\* will be clear.

*\*Written by an African pastor who was martyred for his faith.*

**\*\*When the writer uses the word “colourless,” he was using a word that describes too many modern Christians. We are “colorless” precisely because we have decided to blend in with the scenery. Our “colours” are not clear because we look so much like everyone else.**

**Be part of the Fellowship of  
the Unashamed.**

**It is the only way to live this life.**



**To be a missionary you don't  
have to cross the sea, you just  
have to see the cross.**

*~ This is from a book called The one  
thing you Can't do in Heaven- by:  
Mark Cahill*