

A person is sitting on a rocky ledge on the left side of the frame, looking out over a vast, undulating sea of white clouds that stretch to the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, creating a warm and contemplative atmosphere. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the clouds.

**COURAGE!**

**When Conviction Clashes  
with Expectation**

**Daniel 1... FOOD forbidden by God**

“resolved not defile himself,” i.e. not  
a matter of custom or culture.

# STRATEGY

- **Request**
- **Second** request (“I’m serious here!”)

# COURAGE

- Proposal of a test
- Absolute trust in God

**SUCCESS!**

Commitment to God AND service  
to King remained intact!

God BLESSED his courage to sacrifice  
career rather than surrender character!

**Daniel 3...** worship of image/idol

No redefinition, shift, wiggle, or compromise possible here!

# STRATEGY

- Ignore the expectation, see what happens... accept the consequences

# COURAGE

- Willingness to die
- Absolute trust in God

**SUCCESS!**

Miraculous preservation of life  
and increase of influence!

This courage was not heroism  
or theatrics. It was simply an expression  
of their spiritual **conviction!**

Their courage did not fail because  
it was based on everything  
they **believed** and **valued**!

Courage is not simply ANOTHER  
VIRTUE but is the expression of any  
virtue when it reaches its testing point.

C. S. Lewis