

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Part 2

Daniel 6

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we stepped into Daniel 6 and as we did we watched as Daniel went from the third ruler in the Babylonian Empire to being just a servant in the Medo Persian Empire. It all happened in just a few hours as Babylon was overthrown. Then we were able to follow as Daniel continued to live for God under the Medo Persian Empire and he went from a servant to one of three presidents and then on to the top president.

Notice Daniel 6:1-3

I want to consider something that we did not consider last week. Daniel is in his 80's at this time and he is still serving the Lord, even in a place where he would not chose to be.

Application:

This is a really good reminder to all of us that we are to continue to serve the Lord as long as we are able to do so. There is no mention of retiring from service found in the Scriptures. I would like to think that the older we get the more wisdom we would have to share. It is of great importance that as we grow older we stay plugged in so that we can help those who are coming along behind or beside us.

Notice Daniel 6:4-7

Daniel's lifestyle and his promotion did not sit well with his coworkers. They despised Daniel most likely for two reasons.

1. His promotion.
2. His Godly lifestyle.

Daniel was a Jew and now he was promoted over the Medes and the Persians who he served with. His coworkers were then determined to bring persecution upon Daniel. Then there was the way he conducted his life and this would have made his coworkers look bad and it would have convicted them. What was their response? It was to use Daniel's worship of his God against him and have him destroyed.

Application:

This is what we too can expect as we live for God in this ungodly world.

2 Timothy 3:11-13

¹¹ Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

We live in an evil world and when we live for our Lord the persecution will come.

Psalm 37:12-15

¹² The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

¹³ The LORD shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

¹⁵ Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

1 Peter 4:12

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Getting back to Daniel, those against him proposed a law that declared it was illegal to pray to anyone but the king and the penalty for the one who broke it would be to be cast into the lion's den. These men had watched Daniel, and they knew that prayer was a major part of his life and that is why they set up the law as they did.

➤ **Living a Consistent Life for the Lord**

Notice Daniel 6:8

Once the law was established it was not possible to reverse it according to the Medes and the Persians. We see the same thing in the book of Esther.

Esther 1:19

¹⁹ If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

Even if it was determined that the law created a major problem, once it was in writing it was not possible to change it.

Notice Daniel 6:9

Darius signed the writing without giving it much thought. Most likely the law was flattering to the king. The law would lift him up as a god. But he neglected to think through the consequences.

Application:

Let us learn from this that to act in haste can sometimes bring about consequences that are not possible to reverse. Many people have bought into that which appealed to the flesh only to discover later that they should have waited and thought the situation through.

Isaiah 30:18

¹⁸ And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Let us learn to seek the Lord's will when faced with a situation in which we need to make a decision. Let us seek His wisdom.

James 1:2-5

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Notice Daniel 6:10

As soon as Daniel knew the writing was signed, he went to his house, kneeled down, and prayed toward Jerusalem 3 times a day. There are several things to consider about Daniel here. First of all, we need to understand that Daniel did not go to his house to pray out of spite. This was his practice every single day.

Application:

I point this out because there are believers who will do what they normally do not do just to go against the rules of man. If someone makes a law that would say you can not carry a Bible to work, they may have never carried a Bible to work but now they will take one just to go against the law. This was not what Daniel did. He had lived a life of prayer, and the decree would not stop him from praying as he always did.

Daniel placed his loyalty to God far above his loyalty to the king. Daniel knew the cost and he trusted God to work His will. Notice the words of Showers.

"Daniel "was not a fair-weather friend who would serve God only when personally convenient or when there was no price to pay. He was convinced that his daily relationship with God should take precedence over the will of man... Once again he was doing what was right and trusting God for the results."

This shows the consistency in Daniel's spiritual walk with God. Daniel would worship God regardless of what he was facing. There was nothing, not even the threat of death that could deter Daniel. I am reminded here of what the Lord said to the church of Smyrna.

Revelation 2:8-10

⁸ *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

⁹ *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

¹⁰ *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

It is easy to worship God when all is well and we are with other believers. But how would we respond if we were placed under the threat of death if we were caught praying or

attending church? Daniel knew God and he was not afraid to die therefore he had the courage to live for God.

Notice Daniel 6:11-14

First of all, let us consider the problem these men had with Daniel. It was not so much about his prayer, but it was that fact that he was monotheistic. That means that he worshipped only one God. Had this not been the case then he could have prayed to Darius and there would have been no problem.

Application:

This is the problem that the world has with Christianity today. We believe that there is only One True God and there is only One Way to heaven and the world hates that teaching. If we would just say there are many gods and many ways to him then there would be no problem. But we proclaim the Truth and that causes many people to be offended.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

This is exactly why Christianity is hated by many today. It is narrow as the Bible states that there is only One Way to God. Had Daniel not been monotheistic he would have had no problem.

Notice Daniel 6:14 again.

The king found himself in a very difficult situation because of his choice to sign the decree. Daniel was headed for the lion's den, and the king was searching for a way to keep Daniel alive. Let us understand that God allowed all of this to happen. Why? Because God wanted to manifest Himself to Darius just as He had to Nebuchadnezzar.

Application/Conclusion:

We must learn from this that in the trials we face it is not always about us, but there are many times when God desires to use our lives in a way that others can see His power. That

means that there are going to be times when God places us in some high-pressure situations. There are going to be times when we are in situations which we have no control over. This is where God wants us because it is in these situations that we can not escape without His intervention. We are in a situation so that His power will be seen. What is my responsibility? Walk by faith.