

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Part 3

Daniel 6

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to Daniel, we are coming back to the scene where has been found praying to His God which was a violation of the law of the Medes and the Persians. Let us remember that Daniel had been preferred over all the princes and the presidents in the Medo Persian Empire. Daniel had conducted his life in a way that was pleasing to God and to Darius the king. Darius then elevated Daniel in the kingdom and Daniel's fellow servants were jealous. They therefore had the king sign a decree that said no one could pray to anyone but the king for 30 days and if they did, they would be cast into the lions. They did this because they knew Daniel was a man of prayer. They had attempted to find fault with Daniel but there was none to be found. They had to find fault with him concerning His God. So, they had this decree issued which was irreversible under the Medes and the Persians. The decree was issued and Daniel was caught praying just as he did every day.

Notice Daniel 6:9-14

Daniel had been found guilty and now the king was sorely displeased. He labored until sunset to find a way to release Daniel from the sentence. Sunset would be the time when Daniel would be cast into the lion's den. The king most likely sought his lawyers and advisers to see if there was a way to reverse the sentence. Notice the words of Wood from his Daniel Commentary.

"All that the king did in his endeavor to deliver Daniel is difficult to say. He probably worked with lawyers to see if there were any possibility for setting the decree aside. Perhaps he argued that the king, who had made the law, ought to be able to set it aside; or he may have asked if there were no past cases where similar decrees had been rescinded; or he may have inquired if a man might be pardoned by the king and still satisfy legal requirements."

Application:

There are several lessons here but one that stands out is the warning to each of us concerning where we get our counsel. Counseling from the wrong people, especially unsaved people, can be very misleading and very damaging. There is another example in the Gospel of Mark.

Mark 6:22-26

²² *And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.*

²³ *And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.*

²⁴ *And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.*

²⁵ *And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.*

²⁶ *And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.*

➤ **God's Purpose**

Notice Daniel 6:15

The men who had set the trap for Daniel made sure to remind the king that there was nothing he could do to reverse the decree.

Notice Daniel 6:16

The king was true to the law of the Medes and the Persians. We need to notice what the king said to Daniel when he committed him to the lions.

"Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."

There are several points to see here. First of all, we see the impression that Daniel's faith had left on this man. The king exhibits faith in this statement. He would have known *what* had happened in the fiery furnace when Daniel's friends were cast in and he had been watching the life of Daniel. Daniel served God CONTINUALLY and the king testifies to this. The king believed that Daniel's God would deliver Daniel from the lions.

The point that we need to see here is that the king saw Daniel's God as a living God that had great power.

Application:

This raises a question for our lives. As people watch us how would they view God? Do we live as though God is alive and working in our lives every single day or do we live as though God is dead? Daniel knew God was alive and therefore he served Him continually. There was not one day when Daniel did not live for God because Daniel knew that God was alive. There are people who live their lives as though God is only alive one day a week and that would be Sunday. The rest of the week they live as though God is dead. They live for the world, and they have no problem enjoying their sin. Therefore, as people watch them, they would think that God only lives on Sundays.

Notice Daniel 6:16 again.

There is one more point to see here. God allowed Darius to get into a situation where all of his resources were exhausted and there was no where to turn except to God.

Application:

This is often how God works in the lives of unsaved people. It is not because God wants to see them struggle but it is for the purpose of getting the sinner to look to Him. Many people have come to know Jesus Christ in these very situations. They had been diagnosed with a terminal illness or there is a situation that arises in their lives that they have no power to correct, and they have no where to turn but to God.

Even as believers we can find ourselves in these situations. If we consider Daniel, then we can better understand that God can put us in some high-pressure situations so that it might bring someone else to salvation. That is exactly what God is doing with Daniel. God may also put us in these situations to strengthen our faith and to strip away the dross from our lives so that we will lean more upon Him instead of our own abilities.

James 1:2-3

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

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

1 Peter 1:7

⁷ *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

Notice Daniel 6:17-18

After Daniel was cast in with the lions the king went back to his room and fasted all night. He refrained from music, sleep, and food. Many believe that the king prayed all night. He set aside anything that would distract him and he spent the night in prayer. This he had learned from Daniel. Daniel was a man of prayer, and he prayed three times a day. The king had learned from Daniel that pray changes things and he therefore patterned his life after Daniel.

Application:

If someone patterned their life after you and responded in a high-pressure situation like you do, what would they do? Would they complain all night? Would they call people on the phone and complain to them? Would they be angry with God because of the situation? Would they respond with hopelessness and despair? Or would they take the matter to the Lord and cast all their care upon Him? People watch us and they listen to what we say when our world is falling apart. The way we react has a major impact upon their lives and the way they react. Daniel was a man of prayer and this Gentile king learned from Daniel as he watched Daniel serve his God and cast his care upon his God.

Notice Daniel 6:19-20

Here again we see the king's testimony of Daniel's life. As he watched Daniel, he knew Daniel served a living God, he testifies that Daniel was faithful in serving his God. What stands out here to me is that the king came in expectation that Daniel was still alive because his God had saved him. This Gentile king has more faith than many believers. Let us be reminded that God desires that we walk by faith.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Notice Daniel 6:21-23

God had sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions. This was surely the Angel of the Lord who was Jesus Christ. He was the very One in the fire with Daniel's friends and He was in the lion's den with Daniel.

Isaiah 43:2-3

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

In verse 23 we are told that Daniel was safe because he believed in his God. We need to notice that Daniel's God is a personal God. This is what eternal life is, it is a personal relationship with the Father and the Son. When we are in this relationship and we walk by faith God is pleased.

Hebrews 11:32-33

³² *And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

³³ *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.*

Let us understand that God is working in our lives to strengthen our faith and that means we are going to be tested as we go through life. He desires that we forsake our personal dependance and that we become completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit. That would be for every area of our lives.

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

Notice Daniel 6:24

Here we see that the sin of these men in their plan to trap and destroy Daniel not only affected them but also their families.

Genesis 12:2-3a

² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing;*

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:*

Notice Daniel 6:25-28

Herein is the purpose. The purpose of God in all of this is that He would be glorified and made known to all the peoples of the world.

Conclusion/application:

Our ultimate purpose while we walk this earth is to glorify God.

John 15:1-2, 8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

⁸ *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*