

LESSON 1: Daniel and the Lions Den

RECAP...

- What did tonight's message teach you about standing for your faith?

READ: Daniel 6:1-23

THE STORY

- Daniel Under the Authority of King Darius
 - King Darius appointed Daniel into a position of leadership (v. 1-2)
 - Daniel's impeccable wisdom, integrity, and faithfulness led the king to want to promote Daniel into a more prominent position (v. 3)
- The Plot Against Daniel Is Carried Out
 - The other administrators grew jealous of Daniel and wanted to remove him from power. They went to the king and convinced him to sign into law an edict forbidding prayer to any other king or god besides him (v. 4-9)
- Daniel's Faithfulness to God Causes Him to be Condemned
 - Upon learning of this new law, Daniel immediately went to God in prayer. He prayed multiple times a day with his window open - choosing to glorify God and offer thanksgiving (v. 10)
 - The men plotting against Daniel discover him actively breaking the law and demand the king stay true to his word and sentence Daniel to death. Darius shows genuine remorse; however, he is bound by his own law and ultimately has Daniel thrown into the Lion's Den to be executed (v. 11-18)
- Daniel is Preserved in the Lion's Den
 - At sunrise, the king immediately returned to the den and cried out to Daniel to see if God spared him through the night (v. 19-20)
 - Daniel replied that God had not only spared him, but He had sent an angel to seal the mouths of the lions - preventing him from being harmed. Darius rejoiced and had Daniel removed, finding him to be unharmed just as Daniel had said (v. 21-23)
- The Fate of Those Who Plotted Against Daniel
 - The fellow satraps and administrators who went out of their way to maliciously harm Daniel were themselves executed by the tool they created to hurt him. According to Persian tradition, their families were executed as well (v. 24)

MAIN IDEA

- Daniel knew God was more powerful than King Darius and that God's laws were more important than the king's laws - but he knew staying true to God would have consequences. Instead of being afraid, he boldly declared his faithfulness to God by praying (with thanksgiving) and trusting God would take care of him.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What made Daniel distinguished before the king (vs. 3)?
 - Daniel had, “an excellent spirit in him.” Daniel was not great or distinguished on his own, but because God gave him favor before the king and gave him an excellent spirit, he was promoted.
- What characteristics about Daniel are listed in vs. 4? What does this reveal about persecution?
 - Daniel is faithful and without error or fault. Persecution can come to a believer who is being faithful not because they are at fault but *because* of their faith.
- How did Daniel’s worship change after King Darius signed the document? Why is this significant?
 - Daniel’s worship didn’t change. This was evidence of his faithfulness.
- What was the result of Daniel’s faithfulness?
 - Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den because of his commitment to worship the One True God.
- In verse 22, Daniel was found unharmed because he was found, “blameless before God and the king.” How are we to be found blameless?
 - This is only possible in Christ. No amount of work we do will ever be good enough before God.
- According to verse 23, what was required of Daniel for him to be delivered safely? Does this mean we will never suffer harm in this life, why or why not?
 - “He trusted in his God.” We are not active agents in our salvation, but recipients of it. Be sure to distinguish between salvation in this life and salvation in the next. We are not promised to live unharmed now but in Christ we are promised eternal life and eternal security.
- Reread verse 4,17, & 22, who is Daniel’s life ultimately pointing towards?
 - Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true and better Daniel. He is faithful in every persecution, innocent in every accusation, and victorious over every foe.

SO WHAT:

Are you trusting in God to deliver you or are you trying to deliver yourself?