

Weekly Lesson Theme: Staying True In A World Far From God

Lesson Scriptures: Daniel 6:6-13, 16-17, 21-23

Key Lesson Theme: "Live Courageously"

Today's Lesson: Friday, September 22

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Daniel 6:6-13, 16-17, 21-23

⁶ So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, "May King Darius live forever.

⁷ All the administrators of the kingdom—the prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors—have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that, for thirty days, anyone who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den.

⁸ Therefore, Your Majesty, establish the edict and sign the document so that, as a law of the Medes and Persians, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed."

⁹ So King Darius signed the written edict.

¹⁰ When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God.

¹² So they approached the king and asked about his edict: "Didn't you sign an edict that for thirty days any person who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "As a law of the Medes and Persians, the order stands and is irrevocable."

¹³ Then they replied to the king, "Daniel, one of the Judean exiles, has ignored you, the king, and the edict you signed, for he prays three times a day."

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed.

²¹ Then Daniel spoke with the king: "May the king live forever. ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths; and they haven't harmed me, for I was found innocent before him. And also before you, Your Majesty, I have not done harm."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to take Daniel out of the den. When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God.

Live It Out

Daniel knew the certain consequences of his deliberate decision to obey the Lord rather than the king's decree. Even so, he was

not deterred. He acted courageously. Where did such courage come from? Why could he be so at ease in the face of the prospects of such a horrific death? Did he expect that God would spare him? Or was something even greater than life driving him to act as he did? He was a man of courage because he was a man of faith committed to doing the right thing. He would face the challenge in God's strength.

As we noted in the exposition, Daniel was no longer a teen or young man when he faced the threat of the lions. He was likely in his early eighties. Therefore, he had at least sixty-five years of faith history from which to draw. God had proven Himself faithful over and over again during the time of exile. Armed with that knowledge and experience, Daniel chose to trust God, believing that God was greater than any of those who opposed him.

The Daniel court stories remind us that "God does not always save us from trials, but he saves us through our trials. God does not prevent the three youths from being cast into the furnace (Dan. 3); nor does he keep Daniel from being thrown in the lions' pit. However, he saves them from the effects."⁴ Yet the larger message of Scripture teaches us that those who live by faith have the assurance that even if we do not get justice in this life, we know we will be given such in the next, whereby we know victory in Christ. We too, like Daniel, can live with courage to do the right thing in God's strength.

Digging Deeper

Recall a time when your faithfulness to God was put to the test.

Were you tempted to change your resolve to obey and honor God? How did you respond?

How did facing that challenge help your faithfulness to Him grow deeper?

What is your testimony of how God worked in your life during a difficult time, even if the difficulty didn't go away?

In what ways did the circumstances provide you an opportunity to bear witness to the graciousness and faithfulness of God?

Until next week Saints.....
Every day is Sunday