

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: Wednesday, September 20

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

Daniel 6:11-13

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."

Commentary

"His was not the dissent of a religious fanatic, for he merely continues his usual practice—he prays and gives thanks. He does not court martyrdom, but when disaster threatens, he remains steady; and it is his sharp profile as an observant and obedient Jew that is both his downfall and his salvation."² He would not allow his enemies or the king's decree to become barriers to faithful worship and time before the Lord God, whom he served.

Rather than call Daniel by his governmental title, they referred to him as one of the Judean exiles. That was their way of reminding the king that Daniel was a foreigner, a resident alien at best. By saying he ignored you, the king, they made Daniel's violation of the edict a personal affront to the king. Thus, they implied they were loyal to the king and offended that anyone would be disloyal. In addition, to say that Daniel had ignored the edict you signed indicated that what Daniel had done was an open act of defiance against the royal law, because he prayed three times a day. To know that latter detail suggests the representatives of the opposing contingency must have spent a lot of time watching Daniel's window—from morning till night.

The king was distressed, not at Daniel, but at himself. Perhaps he now realized the whole plan had been a ruse to trap Daniel and use the king as a pawn in securing Daniel's execution. He looked all day for legal loopholes that would deliver Daniel from the fate that awaited him in the lions' pit, but alas, Darius was trapped. He fell victim to his own ego and authority.

What are some lasting truths that come from Daniel 6:11-13?

- Those who oppose God and His people are often relentless in their pursuit.
- The faithful can expect to suffer.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday