

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: Monday, September 18

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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.

The Bible Meets Life

The world is not always content to leave Christians alone. If they can't persuade us to join them in what they're doing, they will try to keep us from practicing our faith. Why does this matter to the world? Our actions shine the light of Christ and expose their

darkness; something the world does not want to see happen. Daniel was not fazed when his faith was challenged. He continued to worship God and pray, even if it meant opposition and death.

The Setting

Political reorganizations are not a contemporary phenomenon. Darius the Mede, the ruler in Babylon after the Medo-Persian takeover, implemented a new structure by appointing a lower tier of officials—princes or satraps—to govern assigned portions of the realm. These satraps reported to three presidents, or administrators, who were accountable to Darius himself. The primary concern was to reduce corruption in the tax collection process. Darius, whose identity and place in the history of the empire is often debated, selected Daniel as one of the administrators, probably because of his well-earned reputation as a man of integrity. Darius admired Daniel so much that before long he made Daniel chief of the three administrators. In that role, Daniel would in essence be second in command, reporting directly to the king.

As frequently happens among ambitious people who feel overlooked by their superiors, jealousy reared its ugly head. The other two administrators and at least some—probably claiming to represent all—of the satraps set out to find something negative against Daniel. Their search was futile. Daniel not only had a reputation as a man of integrity, he acted with integrity. No one could find any negligence or corruption that would create disfavor with the king. Therefore, his opponents developed a clear plan to attack him at his strength; that being his devotion to God. Thus, Daniel found himself in dire circumstances, not because he was weak in faith, but because he was unwavering and stalwart.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday

