

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: Tuesday, September 19

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

Daniel 6:6-10

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.

Commentary

Daniel's opponents designed and agreed to a plan that would appeal to Darius at what is the most vulnerable place for most of us—the ego. The presentation implied unanimity. All the administrators of the kingdom—there were only three with Daniel being one of them, and chief at that—implies Daniel endorsed the plan. They also suggested the plan was broadly endorsed by other officials at various levels in the administration including prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors. Darius should have noticed Daniel's absence, especially since he was the chief of the administrators and held favor with the king. Perhaps the king was blinded by his own ego or he just had no reason to suspect that the other two administrators would misrepresent Daniel in this business.

The ordinance was that for thirty days, no one would be permitted to petition any god or man except you, the king. The officials probably proposed that length of time fully confident that they would not need that long to catch Daniel in violation of the edict. The enforcement provision was that anyone who violated the decree will be thrown into the lions' den.

Daniel subsequently learned that the edict had been signed. For many people, such a decree might have created a crisis of faith.

If this was true for Daniel, it was short-lived. Though Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he did not alter his lifestyle or retreat in his faithfulness to the Lord. Just as He was accustomed, Daniel went into his house and ascended to an upper room that provided him some privacy.

His windows were opened toward Jerusalem, following the instructions Solomon had given (1 Kings 8:44-49). Just as he had done before, meaning continuing "as he had done previously" (ESV), he got down on his knees and prayed. He made his petitions known and gave thanks to his God. He not only did it once, but he did it three times a day, probably modeling the practice of Judaism to pray in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

What are some lasting truths that come from Daniel 6:6-10?

- Those who have a strong faith in God can expect opposition to surface.
- Unfortunately, some authorities negatively influence the culture to deny the things of God.
- Doing things to satisfy our egos may lead us to make inappropriate decisions and take unreasonable actions.
- Nothing should deter us from our faithful worship and walk with the Lord.
- Our faithfulness to God is not to spite others but to bring glory to Him.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday