

Daniel 6:1-28

3/14/21

## A Faithful Servant

### Daniel 6:1-10

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. A faithful servant

1. Daniel was the epitome of a faithful servant. He set his heart on God & wouldn't be deterred by life events. He would not compromise under pressure.
2. Daniel loved God more than his own life.
3. Application: Daniel was a faithful servant when everything in life was against him.
4. Daniel is an example of being a faithful servant of the Lord.
5. He did not serve God under perfect circumstances or when it was popular or easy.

#### II. Lessons from Daniel: (Daniel 6:1-3)

##### A. Context of this chapter

1. The context of this chapter is set in the fall of the Babylonian empire.
2. The Persian king, Cyrus, had laid siege to the city of Babylon.
3. Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, had enough provisions inside the city to last years.
4. The Euphrates River ran through the city from North to South providing city water.
5. The city had massive walls and was considered impregnable.
6. River Diverted: Babylonians were so sure the city was impregnable that they did not set watches or guards on the walls. The Persian's plan was to go under the walls.
7. They dug a canal on the North side of the city diverting the Euphrates river into a lake.
8. The water level of the river dropped low enough for the Persian soldiers to walk into the city under the wall. On 10/ 12/539 B.C. the Persian army took the city of Babylon.
9. **Daniel chapter 5** describes the fall of the city and the death of Belshazzar.

##### B. Reorganization

1. Darius was made ruler by Cyrus. He created a new organized administration.
2. He appointed 120 Satraps, administrators, over regions of this new section of Persia.
3. Over the 120 Satraps he appointed 3 administrators. Daniel was appointed by Darius as one of the three senior administrators of the new government.

##### C. Daniel stood out.

1. Daniel, an excellent administrator, was mid-70s to 80 years old by this time.
2. He had served as the vice regent of Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar for ~ 40 years.
3. Two reasons Darius preferred Daniel above the others:
  - (1) – His prophesy concerning Babylon
    - a. Daniel had foretold the conquest of Babylon by the Persians.
    - b. Darius respected the reputation of Daniel as a wise prophet.
  - (2) – Because an excellent spirit was in him
    - a. The Holy Spirit was active in Daniel's life & God's power was evident in his life.
    - b. Daniel was trusted above all his peers. Darius viewed Daniels' faith as an asset.
    - c. Application: May the lost world see the same kind of excellent spirit in us.
    - d. Christians should be most trustworthy & productive employees in any profession.

#### III. Envy! (Daniel 6:4-5)

- *The other 2 lead administrators, jealous of Daniel's success, set about to plan his fall.*

**A. Search for some accusation.**

1. These men looked for some reason to charge Daniel with treason, dishonesty, or some form of financial impropriety. They dug in every closet trying to find fault with Daniel.
2. To the character of Daniel, they found nothing. He was of unassailable integrity.
3. Application: If someone dug into our lives like this, what would they find?
4. Daniel lived what Peter would later say. **See 1 Peter 3:15-17**

**IV. They turn to Daniel's faith. (Daniel 6:6-9)**

- *It was over Daniel's religion that these men began to hatch a diabolical plan.*

**A. A religious law**

1. Daniel had broken no laws or engaged in any activity appearing evil or of impropriety.
2. Since they couldn't find fault with Daniel in any other area, they created a religious law they knew he would disobey.
3. They proposed a law that anyone who wanted to pray to a god in Babylon had to do so through Darius for 30 days. A few observations about this law:
  - (1) – It was tied to politics.
    - a. Every imaginable idol was present in Babylon.
    - b. Religious unrest & riots were common. This law was to keep peace among people
    - c. The nation is unified by having all people pray to or through you for 30 days.
    - d. Application: That's how persecution against Christianity will increase here. Laws will be passed that will be presented as good for the most people.
  - (2) – Darius taking the place of God
    - a. Darius wouldn't have given a second thought to taking on a position of deity.
    - b. He was not trying to be a god, but would have been flattered at the idea.
    - c. He could help bring calm to the nation and be the main man for 30 days.
4. Warning: Be careful about making decisions or choices when pride is a motivator.
5. He signed this law when he should have given it some more thought.

**V. Daniel's response (Daniel 6:10)**

**A. Daniel prayed. *Daniel did not alter his prayer life.***

1. – He knew about the law.
  - a. He knew it had been signed by the king and was in force.
  - b. The law was written because the other 2 administrators were after his job & him.
2. – He continued as normal.
  - a. He didn't obtrude his religious practices because of the law. Rather, he continued with his worship as he had always done. He continued to pray in his own home.
3. – He did not hide his faith.
  - a. Just as Daniel did not obtrude his faith, neither was he ashamed of his faith.
  - b. He opened the lattice windows & prayed toward Jerusalem as he had always done.
  - c. Anyone could look in the window and see him on his knees petitioning God.
4. – The choice he made
  - a. Daniel had to choose between two laws, obeying man's law or obeying God's law.
  - b. The Bible teaches to be model citizens & obey all laws of the land in which we live.
  - c. However, if man creates a law directly contradicting God's law, we are to choose to obey God and quietly suffer whatever the consequences might be.
  - d. Example: Acts 5, Peter & some disciples were arrested for preaching in Jesus' name
  - e. They were faced with the same decision Daniel had to make. **(Acts 5:29)**
  - f. Peter was eventually arrested and crucified under the reign of Nero.

**B. The rest of the story.**

1. Daniel was arrested for praying. Darius, realizing what had happened, tried to deliver Daniel, but Persian law couldn't be altered & Daniel was thrown in the lion's den to die.
2. God sent an angel to protect Daniel in the lion's den and he was unharmed.
3. The next morning the king discovered Daniel was still alive & he was removed from the lion's den & Daniel gave testimony to how God has preserved his life.
4. Darius then had Daniel's accusers, the authors of the law, thrown into the lion's den.
5. The lions ripped them apart before they hit the bottom of the pit.