

Daniel 6:1-28

Daniel in the Lion's Den.



**MORE THAN A
CHILDREN'S STORY**

Daniel in the Lions Den



**Reading:
Daniel 6**

Good morning church. Some of you may again be wondering how it has once again come down to me standing in front of you here today again. Well last time I just so happened to be the best available in the price range the was offered; but this time it just so happens, that I had enough facial hair to make the cut!

But in all seriousness, it is a great privilege to be able to stand before you again. To have this opportunity as one of you EID's is a real blessing, and I hope that as we study God's word together today that it is a blessing to you as well. This week has certainly been a Proverbs 16:9 kind of week for my family and myself. As the verse states: "A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his step." To say I had a

plan for this week and that it didn't go as planned would be an understatement. So, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to just thank all those who reached out this week by calling or texting to just tell me they were praying or to give me some encouragement and help. And church if you don't know already our pastoral staff is good stuff! They have all taken extra time out of their already busy schedules to meet with me and to help me in this process and for that I'm grateful. Last but not least, my family. They have risen to the challenge that this week came with and did so with understanding and caring hearts that showed who their faith is placed in. And to my wife, Christine, who allowed me to take on this task even though it meant giving up celebrating our 28th anniversary on Saturday. I'm a truly blessed man.

NEED A BIBLE TODAY?

Please raise your hand
and our ushers will bring
you a Bible.

*This is our gift for you to
keep or you may return it
at the back table at the end
of the service.*



Well today we continue in our series of “more than a children’s story” by looking at Daniel and the lion’s den, in Daniel 6. If you don’t have a bible with you, we have one for you. Simply raise your hand as our ushers come by. If you don’t have a bible of your own, please take this one home as our gift today or simply return it in the back afterwards.



**MORE THAN A
CHILDREN'S STORY**

Uncompromising faith.



Reading:
Daniel 6

They say the best place to begin with is always in beginning. So, let take a look at how we arrived where we are. We find Daniel now serving his 3rd king since being taken captive as a teen and now he is a man in his eighties. Daniel and his three friends have come through many trials and temptations to compromise their beliefs, but God isn't done quite yet with Daniel. There is one final story to tell.

So, if you're able please stand as we continue our worship through the reading of scripture by reading verses 1-4 & 28.

Daniel 6:1-4/28



1Darius decided to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm, 2and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded. 3Daniel distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm. 4The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.

²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Please be seated. Would you pray with me.

Today's reading is certainly more than a children's story. This story is filled with drama, and is a suspense, action, thriller that has all the elements of a block buster movie that causes your imagination to run and your heart to skip a beat. But while the world may see this as an unbelievable story, that excites them for a time, we see Daniel showing us what it is to live in the world, but not be of it. (Rom 2:12) Daniel demonstrates to us what it is to live with an uncompromising faith in a compromising world. Which brings us our main point for today:

Main point

Following God will bring suffering for Christ's sake.



That following God is costly and will bring suffering into your life for Christ's sake.

Now there is a popular saying that says, "God doesn't allow for more than we can handle," but that simply is not true. How many times daily in our lives are things totally out of our control? And if we could simply handle everything that comes our way how big would God be then? But don't fear and have faith, because we worship and serve an amazing God.

God faithfully gives us the capability to live a holy life in a compromising world. When we rely on him to:



You see our God is faithful and He faithfully gives us the ability to live a holy life in a compromising world.

Do we have any sports fans in here today? You see many of us enjoy watching sports and maybe even follow a team or two, or three or four! (You know who you are) But what happens when your team is having a down year? Well for some they stop following that team, we would call that person a fair-weathered kind of fan. The kind who wants to be on the bandwagon when things are great but as soon as things aren't going right, they jump off and maybe even find a new team that just happens to be winning to root for.

Some of us are living our spiritual lives the same way. When things are going well, we are all on board. But as soon as things begin to get hard, we run the other direction. We might even say all the right things with our lips, but in our hearts, we are still trying to do things in our own strength and aren't giving our entire lives to God. Living out a Godly life is a struggle, and no one is alone in this journey, or has arrived yet. The good news is God has given us His word so that we may know how we can be conquerors through Him on this journey. And one of these examples in His word that He gives is Daniel.

You see, Daniel isn't a fair-weather kind of guy, and he demonstrates to us what it looks like to live as a Godly person who is sold out for God in a world that seeks to see us fail. Daniel demonstrates to us that, **"Godly character isn't created in crisis; it's revealed."**

And he does all this in a public setting. Daniel lives his entire life in the secular world serving kings during his time in captivity. So, he gives us an up close and personal look at walking and living out our Christian lives in this world. Let's take a look at how Daniel was able to walk faithfully and uncompromisingly in the Lord. Please look at the verses 1-4 with me.

Read:

Daniel 6:1-3



1Darius decided to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm, 2and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded. 3Daniel distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm. .

We see Darius at the age of 62 is now the third king that Daniel has served in Babylon. And Darius has appointed 120 satraps and 3 administrators overing the satraps as a government in his kingdom. Of these three satraps Daniel is one of them, and he has distinguished himself above all of the others. What was it that made Daniel stand out above all the other. What did he have that the others didn't? Look in verse three. We are told that he had an extraordinary spirit.

- Walk in the spirit. (1-3)



This spirit isn't just something we see of Daniel here in chapter 6 either. In Daniel chapter 4 verses 8 and 9, Nebuchadnezzar sees in him a "spirit of the holy gods," or you could say it as "the Spirit of the Holy God." And he again notes this in 4:18. In chapter 5 we again see again that Daniel has an extraordinary spirit and the "Spirit of the Holy God." You see, Daniel's life was an example of how he was continuously walking in the spirit through faith even as a young teen. I believe it's safe to say that Daniel's rise in power isn't to be attributed much, if at all, to his natural ability or exceptional giftedness. It is to be attributed to his walk with God and the work of God in his life. Daniel was a James 3:17 man who possessed spiritual wisdom that comes from above. He was the man God had made him to be. (Ps. 92:12-15)

What does it look like in your life to walk in the spirit? Are you dependent on God to walk with you through your day-to-day moments. Daniel remained faithfully dependent on God at all times and in all things. From asking the guard as a teen not to defile himself with food he wasn't allowed to eat in chapter 1, or even when he was threatened with death if he didn't interpret the king's dreams. We must

continuously be reminding ourselves that our God is sovereign, and He has providentially put everything in our lives in the correct order for our good.

A few weeks ago, Pastor Kevin taught us that God's providence is His purposeful sovereignty.



“When we break down the word providence, we see it comes from the Latin *video* or “to see” and *pro* or “before”, meaning to see beforehand. God has planned everything for His creation and because He is the sovereign God everything will come to pass as He Purposed. Providence is that marvelous working of God by which all the events and happenings in His universe accomplish the purpose He has in mind.”

John Murry

John Murry explains it this way. “When we break down the word providence, we see it comes from the Latin *video* or “to see” and *pro* or “before”, meaning to see beforehand. God has planned everything for His creation and because He is the sovereign God everything will come to pass as He Purposed. Providence is that marvelous working of God by which all the events and happenings in His universe accomplish the purpose He has in mind.”

- Walk in the spirit. (1-3)



So then to walk in the spirit is to walk by faith and not by sight, (2 Cor.5:7) with our hope put directly on Jesus who is the “founder (or author) and perfecter of our faith.” (Heb. 12:2)

But what often happens in this world when you are successful. Often others can be jealous and covetous of what you have. Read with me verses 4-15.

Daniel 6:4-15



⁴The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him. ⁵Then these men said, “We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God.” ⁶So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, “May King Darius live forever. ⁷All 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. ⁸Therefore, 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.” ⁹So King Darius signed the written edict. ¹⁰When 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. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God. ¹²So 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^[a] and is irrevocable.” ¹³Then 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.” ¹⁴As soon as the king heard this, he was very displeased; he set his mind on rescuing Daniel and made every effort until sundown to deliver him. ¹⁵Then these men went together to the king and said to him, “You know, Your Majesty, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or ordinance the king establishes can be changed.”

Here is where our story starts to really get going. A plan is hatched and put into motion. But the only problem with the original plan that they made was it didn't work. They couldn't find one area of Daniel's life in which they could find fault. There was no negligence or corruption in his life, because he did not just possess an extraordinary spirit, he was also absolutely trustworthy. Notice how they attempted over and over as well. It doesn't say how long they attempted to find some area of Daniels life that didn't measure up, but I believe what is important for us to see here is that no matter how long they would've kept looking they would not have found anything. So, plan "f" at this point is put into motion. This time they have him right where they want. Or so they think. They hatch a plan to use Daniel's faith against him. Daniel's prayer life was so well known and established as part of his character that his enemies knew that this was the one place that they could count on him not ceasing in. And they were right.

So, before the king they go with sarcasm oozing from their lips and they stroke the kings ego saying "may king Darius live forever." After stroking his pride, they then start their lie, as they state that "all" the administrators and satraps have agreed that the king should make an edict and that only the king should be petitioned for thirty days. And anyone who petitions anyone other than the king himself should be thrown into the lions den! Now, obviously not everyone agreed with this. Daniel was left completely out of the picture. You see, their goal wasn't just to see Daniel demoted, but to see him gone. They wanted to him dead. So, as any prideful king would do, Darius signed the edict making it the law. Only to be shown his foolishness later.

We then see that Daniel, after learning of this law, does what he has always done. He goes up to his house to the open window that faced towards Jerusalem and knelt down and prayed. Not just once but three times a day as was customary for him to do. Now you have to admit that this is one of the best plans ever. Why, because it was so simple, and it didn't take any time at all for them to bait Daniel and set the hook.

You just have to wonder if Daniel could see these men out of the corner of his eyes while he was praying. After all they go as a group to find him in his window praying and imploring God and giving thanks. If they could see him, you just wonder if Daniel could also see them as well. I also wonder what he prayed for as well in that window. Maybe that's a question we can ask Daniel one day!

I know some of you are thinking why would he do this? Why wouldn't he just close the window so that he wasn't seen praying. After all, doesn't Matthew 6:5-6 in the bible tell us to pray in private? Doesn't it make sense to just change the way he prays in order to avoid being seen. After all, God knows his heart. I can stand here and honestly tell you that I would've thought about doing that. Let me be clear on this point of why Daniel didn't change his habits.

For Daniel not to pray in his window would've cost him his witness.

You see Daniel didn't pray in his window to be seen by men, as Matthew 6 is referring to. God isn't saying that it is wrong to be seen

praying. Jesus was warning in Matthew 6 against our love of praise for prayer, not our willingness to suffer for prayer. Jesus is warning against the need to be seen and praised for our piety. Daniel's heart was not about him being seen, but his God being worshiped. Daniel used his prayer time as a public testimony and witness to all who saw him. In this instant Daniel was a great evangelist who brought glory to God.

- Walk in the spirit. (Vs. 1-3)
- Serve faithfully – even when it costs. (Vs. 4-15)



Daniel again makes the decision that no matter what the outcome is, to serve his God faithfully even if it cost him his life. He would not take his light and hide it under a bushel. He spent his entire time in Babylon pointing to God. How could he stop doing that now.

After seeing Daniel praying, these men go straight back to the king and put the final stages of their plan in motions. They accuse Daniel before the king of breaking his edict. Immediately after hearing this accusation the king is filled with regret and sets about to try and rescue his friend Daniel from his own foolishness. For the rest of the day till sunset

Darius seeks all the legal council he can in order to find a way to get Daniel off the hook. There was no loophole to be found. You see in the reign of the Medes and Persians; they had a law that even the king is bound by his words and even he is unable to change his own edict. So as the evening came, back come Daniel's accusers before the king. Let's take a look at the next few verses.

Read 16-24

Daniel 6:16-24



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. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No diversions^[a] were brought to him, and he could not sleep. ¹⁹ At the first light of dawn the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he reached the den, he cried out in anguish to Daniel. "Daniel, servant of the living God," the king said,^[a] "has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?" 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. ²⁴ The king then gave the command, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel^[b] were brought and thrown into the lions' den—they, their children, and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

So, the king with his hands tied behind his back, gives the order to throw Daniel into the lion's den. But not before one final conversation with his friend.

- Walk in the spirit. (Vs. 1-3)
- Serve faithfully – even when it costs. (Vs. 4-15)
- Trust God is able to deliver. (Vs. 16-24)



We see Darius place whatever trust he had in the only place he could for Daniel's rescue. Daniel's God. Maybe Darius was very aware of how God had saved Daniel and his friends in the past, and he grasped for the only hope he had left. Do you wonder if hearing his friend saying those words brought a smile to Daniel's face. I just have to wonder if Daniel hearing them thought of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the fiery furnace. And knowing that whether God delivered him the way He did them that day, he was going to trust God no matter what the outcome. Or if Daniel was thinking back on how God had answered so many of his prayers and spared him in the past from death threats.

Well Daniel is put into the lion's den and a stone is rolled over the top and sealed with the king's and the nobles' marks to make sure that he can't escape and that no one can undo what has been done. While I'm sure that Daniel's accusers went home that night after celebrating their win, thinking that was the end of that and most likely slept dreaming of the perfect plan they had executed. But not Darius. We see the king goes back to his palace where he spends the night contemplating all

that he has done to his friend. He is so distraught that he spends the night fasting and unable to sleep.

At the first sign of light, we see Darius rushing to get down to the lion's den to check on his friend. Once he reaches, he cries out in anguish to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lion's?" Can you hear the pain in the king's voice as he says this? I don't believe he is expecting to hear anything in return. I can only imagine the guilt he must have experienced for his choice leading to this and the weight of that decision must have been haunting him in this moment.

Then what exhilaration it had to have been for the king when he hears Daniel respond to him. "May the king live forever." Daniel has lived! God sent his angel to shut the lion's mouths, and Daniel was unharmed, because Daniel was found to be innocent before God and the king. Not only did this angel shut the lion's mouths, but he also caused them to not even put scratch on him with their claws. He was totally unharmed. Imagine the guilt that is being lifted off of Darius in this moment. But should we expect anything less from God, after all Daniel's name literally means "God is my judge!"

But please take a look back at verse 21. This was no ordinary angel that the God sent, this was the preincarnate Jesus! Can you even imagine what that conversation must have been like that night in the den? Or do you think that Daniel fell down on his face and worshipped all night! How amazing is this moment, no matter what happened, Daniel came face to face with Jesus! Oh, church we too can trust in Jesus just as

Daniel did. We now have the Holy Spirit that dwells in us, and all things are possible through Jesus. We no longer just trust in the preincarnate Jesus but in the risen Savior! We need to start living in this world with a resurrection theology. You see when you came to a believing faith in Christ and the cross, that was the beginning and not the end of your journey. We through the Holy Spirit that lives in us can do all things in and through Christ who strengthens us. The same Jesus that saved Daniel can also save you, not only from this world but from your sin! Do you believe that today?

Well after taking Daniel back up out of the Den, Darius gives another command. All the men who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the lion's den. Not just the men, but their entire families, including their wives and children. This was the law of the Persian. That if one member of a family committed a crime the entire family paid the price for it. And for their punishment they didn't even reach the bottom of the pit before the lion's overpowered them and crushed all their bones. This is a terrible price that is paid for their treachery. But this is a picture of what is to come to those who seek to destroy the kingdom of God. God's judgement fell on these men and their families. Do you know the Savior who paid the price for your sins so that you don't face the same judgement? If not, today is the day to trust in God for your salvation.

Well let's take a look at how this story ends.

Read 25-28

Daniel 6:25-28



²⁵Then King Darius wrote to those of every people, nation, and language who live on the whole earth:
"May your prosperity abound!²⁶I issue a decree that in all my royal dominion, people must tremble in fear
before the God of Daniel:
For he is the living God,
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his dominion has no end.
²⁷He rescues and delivers;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth,
for he has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."
²⁸So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

After meting out his punishment to those who accused Daniel, the king then sends out a decree to all the people of every nation, and language on the whole earth.

- Walk in the spirit. (Vs. 1-3)
- Serve faithfully – even when it costs. (Vs. 4-15)
- Trust God is able to deliver. (Vs. 16-24)
- See God's glory & power. (Vs. 25-28)



Do you see God's glory and power in these last verses. God uses even unbelievers to declare His glory amongst the nations. There is nothing out of His control and everything He does brings glory to Him and Him alone and is for our own good. What power our God has that all things obey His commands. Not one molecule is out of place in this world. He is even so powerful that He prospers Daniel through the reign of Darius and Cyrus.

Main point

**Following God will bring
suffering for Christ's sake.**



So church, have faith and trust that God is using your suffering for His sake and for His glory.

I hope that as we read today's scriptures that you saw a glimpse of Jesus in these verses. God gives us His word so that we might see and know Him through His gospel. So, if it's true that the bible is not about me but about Jesus, then we are right to see Him here in Daniel as well. Here are a few of the ways that we see Jesus in these verses:

Daniel, like Jesus, was in the highest place of favor.

Daniel was destined for greater glory in the King's plan.

Daniel was possessed by an "excellent spirit."

There was no evidence which could be produced against him.

He was convicted concerning his position before God.

His enemies assembled to plot against him.

The rulers took counsel against him.

He was condemned by an unchanging law.

He set his face toward Jerusalem.

He was accused by the council to the king.

There was one Gentile ruler who sought to deliver him.

He went to his “death” with the promise of deliverance.

He made no word of self-defense.

He was sealed in the tomb.

He was miraculously delivered from death.

The tomb left no mark on him.

The law was kept to the letter, yet Daniel lived.

His enemies and all theirs met their judgement.

A peace proclamation was sent to all the lands.

But what does this all mean for me and how can I be a Daniel in today's world. How do I walk in the spirit, serve faithfully, trust God when it costs me, and see Him in all His glory and power? Well, I'm glad you asked.

Application

So pray fervently.



Pray! God calls us to pray without ceasing. So, pray fervently. Pray often. And then pray again. Pray until you've prayed! Get the idea yet? We must pray because it's our best options. We can't control our next breath. What else can we do but run to the One who can do all things. And the good news is our God is faithful to hear our prayers. But that's not all we should do.

Application

So pray fervently.

And

Live faithfully.



After praying we must also live faithfully, so that others might see our faith and believe. God's word in James calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. So, we must also live faithfully. Trusting in God means we must be dependent on Him and in Him for all things. It means that I live with the understanding that God has a purpose for me and all that is happening in my life. He is in total control of and is using it all for my good, to mold me into a better image of Himself. Do you want to live like a Daniel? Well to be a Daniel you need to know his Savior. Do you know Jesus today? If not, please come talk to us today. We would love to sit down with you and talk with you about how you can know Jesus as your savior.



**MORE THAN A
CHILDREN'S STORY**

Daniel in the Lions Den



Reading:
Daniel 6

Pray with me:

Benediction

Romans 15:4-6 For **whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction**, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Making the
first **2** minutes
count!

Seek to show
hospitality...
Romans 12:13b