



Part 6: A Faith that Flourishes in a Broken World

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Daniel does not only survive because of his faith, but he flourished. I believe this is our calling, to thrive in Babylon. (life in a broken world)

Setting the Scene

Darius the Mede is the new ruler. (Persians)

The kingdom is divided into 120 provinces

Daniel, at age 80-82, is recognized as being wise. A life that has been tested and refined gives greater testimony to the world around us.

Despite the present circumstances, God is in control. (Overall theme of Daniel 1-6) What does it mean that God is right here with us?

How Did Daniel Flourish in Babylon? (Daniel 6:28)

1. Live a Life Above Reproach. (Daniel 6:1-9)

They know that Daniel's religion is the fundamental guiding principle of his life. He would betray the king before he would betray his religion. Thus they lay their trap to trip him up.¹

- Daniel was a man of character, convictions, and loved the Lord. I believe this made him attractive to the world around him. People respected him because they knew the real Daniel.
- Integrity is doing the right thing when no one else is watching.
- You have influence, and your influence matters.
- When God uses you for His glory, expect resistance. You will impact the world when you allow the Holy Spirit to change you. Holiness happens with the pursuit of being like Jesus.
- Daniel had a reputation for being a man of God. When you do what is right, you can trust the results of that decision. God honors that!

2. Be prepared to make the difficult decisions (Daniel 6:10 -18)

- There is tension between the law of Persians and Medes and God's law.
- I believe he keeps on turning to God because he expects trouble. Perhaps we can learn from this. Should we expect difficulty in living a culture that needs Jesus? (VS. 13)

Our willingness to risk even our lives is what will turn the heads of the secular culture that surrounds us. Our complaints, our legislative efforts, our attempts to compel people to live according to our standards of morality will only close their ears.²

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Dr. Martin Luther King

- Develop healthy spiritual disciplines to prepare for difficult decisions. Kneeling today will give you strength for tomorrow.

"He went into his home."

⁶But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. Matthew 6:6

Daniel was sustained by his time with the Lord. Get away from the interruptions and spend time alone with the Father.

"His windows were opened towards Jerusalem."

¹ Longman, T., III. (1999). *Daniel* (p. 159). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

² Longman, T., III. (1999). *Daniel* (p. 173). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

³⁴ "If your people go out where you send them to fight their enemies, and if they pray to you by turning toward this city you have chosen and toward this Temple I have built to honor your name, ³⁵ then hear their prayers from heaven and uphold their cause. 2 Chronicles 6:34-35

"He kneeled three times a day."

Kneeling is the posture of a beggar.

"Safety and peace come only after we have been forced to our knees." AW Tozer

¹⁷ Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the LORD hears my voice. Psalm 55:17

"Giving thanks to God."

⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, Psalm 107.8 (NIV)

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles so that no one could rescue Daniel. Daniel 6:17

Does this sound similar to another compelling story in scripture? The Resurrection of Jesus! It is through the resurrection that we are rescued from death! We can rest in this truth!

- Take note that even the king saw fasting as significant. (VS 18)

3. Wait on God to work. (Daniel 6:19-28)

- Vs. 19, What people met for evil, God had plans to use it for His glory.
- He is active (Living God)
- He Rescues and Saves (Salvation)
- He is all-powerful and able to do the miraculous.
- He can rescue you from evil.
- Remain faithful; God will take care of you!

³³ By faith, these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the flames of fire and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Hebrews 11:33

One Last Thought: "Those who boldly and cheerfully trust in God to protect them in the way of duty, shall always find him a present help. Thus the righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead. The short triumph of the wicked will end in their ruin." Matthew Henry

Discussion Questions:

- What do we learn about God in this text?
- Do you believe you influence others? If so, how do you leverage that?
- What do you think about Daniel, his convictions, and how he responded to the king and to his accusers?
- Pastor Matt said, "Knelling today will bring strength for tomorrow." How should we respond to that statement? How does developing spiritual disciplines prepare in living a broken world?
- Waiting on God is difficult, can you share about an experience when you did not wait on God?
- After hearing and reading through this passage, what is one take away you have personally?