



Daniel's Devotion in Dark Days

RECAP

This week's focus: Daniel's devotion to God.

Daniel 6 opens where chapter 5 ended; Darius was the new king of the land. After establishing Daniel as one of the top three of his administrators, Darius quickly noticed Daniel was exceptional. The Hebrew language tells us that it was an exceptional "spirit" about Daniel that separated him from the others. This is the same word used in multiple places in the Old Testament that speaks of God's presence. As a result, a promotion was in store for Daniel. But the other 122 leaders under Darius did not take too kindly to the thought of Daniel's promotion so they looked for ways to throw Daniel under the bus.

After recognizing Daniel was above reproach in his professional life, they realized that the only way they could trap him was with regards to his devotion to his God. So, these conmen conspired against Daniel by convincing Darius to write up a law that Daniel would fail to follow as a result to his devotion to God.

Darius fell for the trap set while Daniel changed nothing. He continued to pray to his God and the conmen, not surprisingly, found Daniel praying to Yahweh, breaking the new law codified by Darius. The king was distraught as this law meant Daniel would have met his fate in the lion's den. But before he would be forced to send Daniel into the den, he did all he could to try and save Daniel.

Pretty ironic, isn't it? The most powerful man in the world at the time, completely powerless to deliver Daniel. We know how the story will eventually end, but for the week ahead, it might be good to sit with the flow of this portion of the story. Daniel remains devoted to the Lord while the powerful king was rendered powerless. If the most powerful man in the world can't save Daniel...who could!? The stage is set for Daniel's faithfulness to lead the king, and everyone else, to see that only Yahweh, Daniel's God, has the power to deliver against all odds!



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SHARE (5-10 min)

1. Icebreaker Question: Would you rather have a fast forward, pause, or rewind button on your life?

STUDY (about 30 min) Read Daniel 6:1-14

2. What about the message on Sunday and this passage stood out to you?
3. How does God's Spirit within you make you 'stand out' among others? (Spiritual gifts?)
4. What would others say makes you different or distinguishable? Are the qualities they observe in line with God's Spirit or are they more 'worldly' in nature?
5. How might you press into the unique ways God's Spirit manifests itself in you so that it is His Spirit that makes you stand out? How can you better deflect the 'glory' that comes with 'standing out' from yourself and onto the God who endowed you with the gift of His Spirit?
6. What do you think was going through Daniel's mind and heart as he saw the administrators and satraps set up the clear prayer trap for him specifically?
7. We saw the other leaders try to find a way to trap Daniel in the way he conducted business. They couldn't find any. Is there an area of your 'business life' that others might be able to call out as "corrupt?" If so, explain it.
8. What changes is God's Spirit prompting you to make today, in this season of life? Perhaps think back through the gifts He's bestowed upon you that make you 'stand out'.
9. What is your knee jerk reaction to being 'attacked'? Where in the list of reactions does prayer fall? What might you do to slowly slide prayer up that list of reactions until it reaches the top?

SUPPORT (15 min)

Share your prayer requests and pray that you would live a life of integrity and stay devoted to God.