

WHEN LIONS ROAR

(How To Prepare For The Unexpected In Life)
Daniel 6:1-28



OVERCOMING INTIMIDATION

- ◆ The Plot Of The Jealous
- ◆ The Flattery Of The King
- ◆ The Conviction Of The Believer
- ◆ The Presence Of The Lord

“My God has sent His angel and has shut the lion’s mouth” (Daniel 6:22)

Bill Kirk

“WHEN LIONS ROAR”

Text: Daniel 6:1-23

Subject: What do you do when facing lions in your life? (or) (How do you sleep when lions sleep with you?)

Introduction

Fact: The theme of Daniel 1-6 is an “Excellent Spirit”

Fact: It is the spirit of Daniel day in and day out.

Question: What is an excellent spirit?

- ◆ In chapter 1, a willingness to do right when the environment is all wrong!
- ◆ In chapter 2, a willingness to thank God when blessings come your way!
- ◆ In chapter 3, a willingness to fear the Lord that overcomes the fear of man!
- ◆ In chapter 4, a willingness to speak the truth in love even when it hurts!
- ◆ In chapter 5, a willingness to serve God regardless of the compensation!
- ◆ In chapter 6, a willingness to take a stand no matter what it cost!

(Grasp The Setting Of Daniel 6) (In verses 1-3)

In verse 1 – “It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes”.

In verse 2 – “And over these 120, 3 presidents, of whom Daniel was first.”

In verse 3 – “Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king thought to set him over the whole realm”.

(Here’s The Picture Clear And Simple)

1. From chapter 5 (to chapter 6), a new government has been introduced.
2. Although Cyrus was the conqueror, Darius the Mede, is introduced as the ruling monarch in Babylon.
3. Whereas Nebuchadnezzar’s reign was autocratic and absolute, (he shared authority with no one) – Darius has 120 princes who share his responsibilities and leadership.
4. Over the 120 princes there were 3 presidents of whom Daniel was preferred (among the 3)

Question: What did the 120 princes do?

- #1. They were in place to assure the orderly levying of taxes.
- #2. They were in place to maintain a system of collection and accounting.
- #3. They were in place to prevent anyone from stealing from (or undermining) the king.

Question: Pastor, what’s the big deal about verses 1-3?

Answer: The big deal is in verse 3, “Daniel was preferred above all the other presidents and princes”

Question: Pastor, what is the danger of doing such a good job, that you show-up those who are doing a bad job?

Question: Pastor, what is the cause and cure of a jealous spirit?

Question: Pastor, what do I do when someone else lays a trap to catch me in?

Question: Pastor, why does it pay great dividends to be committed to the Lord?

Question: And pastor, what enables you to sleep well in the presence of lions?

I. The Plot Of The Jealous (Vs. 1-5)

Question: Why does (v. 4) say, “The presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom”?

Answer: Because fidelity and honesty expose the heart of those full of jealousy and envy!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Virtue in one person will reveal the vice in another person.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The integrity of Daniel surfaced the envy in those jealous of Daniel

(So Much So That)

- ◆ Unbridled jealousy caused the rivals to lie to the king and say, "All the presidents and princes have united in this decree."

Question: What is the great temptation when you are betrayed by a colleague, a friend, a co-worker, a family member?

Answer: The great temptations are:

- #1. To get angry at God for allowing the unexpected trouble.
- #2. To get even with those who do you wrong and lie about you.
- #3. To get worse off (instead of better off), because you look horizontally at people instead of vertically at God.

Question: What does the Lord say about people who allow envy and jealousy to corrupt their heart and their actions?

- ◆ Psalm 7:15, "He made a pit and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made"
- ◆ Proverbs 26:27, "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein, and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Faith in the Word will allow you, (to allow God) to do 2 things:

- #1. Faith will allow you to let God take care of you, (and)
- #2. Faith will allow you to let God render judgment where judgment is due.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Real faith takes care of them, (and) ◆ Real faith takes care of you!

(Gene Edwards, on page 51 of his classic book, "Crucified By Christians" says:)

"A crucifixion, properly embraced, will ultimately make you far more than what you were, Improperly embraced, it leaves you less than what you were, It is your choice. You will either be spiritually destroyed or you will grow in Christ beyond previous boundaries. You will be better off or worse off". (Gene Edwards, page 51 in "Crucified By Christians")

(Stephen Covey, on page 73 of "The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective People" writes:)

"It's not what happens to us, but our response to what happens to us that hurts us. Of course, things can hurt us physically or economically and can cause sorrow. But our character, our basic identity, does not have to be hurt at all. In fact, our most difficult experiences become the crucibles that forge our character and develop the internal powers, the freedom to handle difficult circumstances in the future and to inspire others to do so as well."

(Remember This Beloved)

"Every adversity has within it a seed of greater benefit for those who respond to God the right way"
(I repeat)

ILLUSTRATION: TRIALS AND TESTING

A company in the east wanted to serve codfish to its customers on the west coast. The company sent the codfish frozen from the east coast to the west coast – but the taste was lost when frozen. The company then tried shipping the codfish alive in their natural water, but the fish arrived mushy and slimy in the water.

The owner thought: “What is the natural enemy of a codfish?” It is a catfish! So the owner put a live catfish in the tank full of live codfish and the codfish arrived across country alive, firm, alert and fresh. The catfish served the purpose of keeping the codfish from becoming lazy, lethargic and unhealthy.

Question: Do you have a catfish in your tank?

Question: Is God using someone or something in your life to move you around in prayer, fasting and deeper in the Word?

Question: Has God allowed someone to irritate, agitate or offend you in some way to deepen the cross life in your own heart?

Question: Are you willing to see your catfish from God’s perspective (to help you and not to hurt you)?

II. The Flattery Of The King (Vs. 6-9)

Fact: In (v. 7), the princes and presidents are subtle.

Fact: They flatter King Darius and he yields to it.

Fact: The schemers lie and tell the king that everybody has agreed to a royal statute, (what is it?)

- ◆ In (V. 7) "Whoever prays to any God or man except you O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions".
- ◆ In (V. 8) "Sign this decree O King".
- ◆ In (V. 9) "The decree was signed by the king and it cannot be changed"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The schemers had a fail proof plan to eliminate the godly man they envied.
- ◆ The schemers digged a pit that Daniel could not escape.
- ◆ The schemers had the highest authority in the land on their side.

Question: Is there a place in God where you can rest with lions and not lose sleep?

Question: Is there a place in God where you can walk among witches and not be hexed?

Question: Is there a place in God where you can work among devils and not grow faint?

Question: Is there a place in God where you can step through a mine field and not blow up?

Question: Is there a place in God where you can experience injustice and not get even?

III. The Conviction Of The Believer

Question: What does Daniel do in response to the signed decree?

Question: Where does he go when its now illegal to pray to God?

Question: How does he live when his testimony is under pressure and on the line?

(V. 10), Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed...

#1. He goes into his house...

#2. He looks toward Jerusalem...

#3. He kneels upon his knees...

#4. He prays (and gives thanks to God) as he always did.

Question: Does Daniel back down from doing what was right? (No way)

Question: Did he compromise and hide his light under a bushel (to escape rejection) (No way)

Question: In fact, what did the schemers do after the king signed the decree?

Answer: (V. 11) They waited for Daniel to pray, because Daniel had a reputation as a praying (God fearing) believer.

- ◆ What a compliment to Daniel! (and)
- ◆ What a slap-in-the-face to the uncommitted!

Question: What is Daniel willing to suffer for his Christian living?

Answer: In (v. 16), "Cast into the den of lions".

Question: Pastor, what is the lesson from Daniel 6 to my life today?

IV. The Principles Of The Lord

Question: What is the Holy Spirit saying to us in Daniel 6?

#1. There Is The Principle Of Prayer

- ◆ Daniel was not a crisis prayer
- ◆ Daniel was a conviction prayer and prayed as he had always been praying.

(Principle #1)

- ◆ Praying everyday on a consistent basis will prepare you to succeed in the midst of unexpected disappointments. (Why?)
- ◆ Because God will be in your focus and appear larger than your trouble.

#2. There Is The Principle Of Presence

Question: What happened when Daniel was placed in the lion's den?

Answer: (V. 22), "My God has sent his angel and shut the lions mouths"

Question: How can this be pastor?

- ◆ (V. 17) says clearly, "A stone was placed upon the mouth of the den"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ No way in (and no way out!)

(Excuse Me Beloved)

- ◆ When the Lord wants to send you some help, how many of you know that no devil or demon from hell can interrupt air mail from heaven?

(Principle #2)

- ◆ When you are in the will of God, God will be present with you in all of your troubles.

#3. There Is The Principle Of Promotion

(V. 23), "Take Daniel out of the den"

(V. 26), "Everybody better fear the God of Daniel"

(V. 27), "Daniel's God delivers, rescues and works signs and wonders"

(V. 28), "Daniel prospered"

Questions: What happened to Daniel's accusers?

(V. 24), Those who got Daniel in the pit, ended up dying in the pit themselves.

(Principle #3)

- ◆ When you seek 1st the Kingdom of God in your life, God will be sure to promote you when He wants to promote you!!!

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Mortal man cannot thwart God's plan for your life, man is just man but God is God!!!

Conclusion

Questions: How is your commitment to the Lord?

Questions: If princes spied on you; your check-book, your T.V. watching, your dating, your private life, could they accuse you for putting God 1st place?

Questions: Are you facing trouble today, and need to pray and get God into focus?

Questions: Are you somewhere and feel hemmed in, and need the peace that Daniel found?

Questions: Like Daniel, is there someone you need to forgive so that God can bless you and reward your choice to forgive?

Questions: Is there a catfish in your tank that God is using to draw you to Himself?

Altar Call

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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