

“Just As Before”

Daniel 6:1-28

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1 Kings 8:46-51 – “...yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’ if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause...”

1. _____

Daniel 6:3-5 – Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

Daniel 6:7 – All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel 6:10 – When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

2. _____

Daniel 2:21-22 – Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

3. _____

Daniel 6:24 – Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:26-27 – “I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Daniel 6:10 – When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

1 Timothy 4:7b – Rather train yourself for godliness.

4. _____ **Spiritual Disciplines**

Discussion Questions

- Read 1 Kings 8:46-51. How does this passage provide context for Daniel 6? Regarding prayer, what is directed by Solomon in these verses? How are these outward directives indicative of needed inward restoration?
- Why does Daniel get on his knees to pray? What does this physical act seek to communicate?
- According to Jesus' words in John 15:19, is Daniel's situation in verses 1-16 an exceptional situation for believers? Why or why not?
- Daniel was favored by the king, yet it became costly to remain faithful to God. Discuss why it is good to pursue favor with other people and why we should not idolize human favor at the same time.
- Daniel had a choice to make after the edict was signed in verse 9. Describe his choice in verse 10. Is this surprising to you? Could Daniel have made any other choice while avoiding sin?
- How does the Holy Spirit use our faithful practice of spiritual disciplines to increase our godliness? Encourage and challenge one another as you share your highs and lows in prioritizing spiritual disciplines.