

CHILDREN'S SERMONS FOR GROWN-UPS

Part 2: Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6 (NCV)

The book of Daniel tells us how to live for God in a hostile environment.

I. The King's Decree

¹Darius thought it would be a good idea to choose one hundred twenty governors who would rule his kingdom. ²He chose three men as supervisors over those governors, and Daniel was one of the supervisors. The supervisors were to ensure that the governors did not try to cheat the king. ³Daniel showed that he could do the work better than the other supervisors and governors, so the king planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom.

Finally these men said,

⁴Because of this, the other supervisors and governors tried to find reasons to accuse Daniel about his work in the government. But they could not find anything wrong with him or any reason to accuse him, because he was trustworthy and not lazy or dishonest. ⁵Finally these men said, "We will never find any reason to accuse Daniel unless it is about the law of his God."

Daniel was hated because he was successful and he was godly.

⁶So the supervisors and governors went as a group to the king and said: "King Darius, live forever! ⁷The supervisors, assistant governors, governors, the people who advise you, and the captains of the soldiers have all agreed that you should make a new law for everyone to obey: For the next thirty days no one should pray to any god or human except to you, O king. Anyone who doesn't obey will be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸Now, O king, make the law and sign your name to it so that it cannot be changed, because then it will be a law of the Medes and Persians and cannot be canceled." ⁹So King Darius signed the law.

II. The Prophet's Devotion

¹⁰Even though Daniel knew that the new law had been written, he went to pray in an upstairs room in his house, which had windows that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day Daniel would kneel down to pray and thank God, just as he always had done.

III. The Lord's Deliverance

¹⁹The next morning King Darius got up at dawn and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰As he came near the den, he was worried. He called out to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God that you always worship been able to save you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me, because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, O king." ²³King Darius was very happy and told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions' den. So they lifted him out and did not find any injury on him, because Daniel had trusted in his God.

Lessons for Modern-Day Daniels

1. It is possible to live a pure life in the midst of a thoroughly pagan world.
2. Christians who live for God show expect opposition.
3. God can use us to touch unlikely people when we are faithful to him.