

Message Notes | Daniel

Part 6: Greater Expectations

Daniel 6

→ unmet expectations bring disappointment

#1 Your _____ will shape your _____ of God.

→ Daniel was a man of faith and integrity - **vs. 1-2**

→ he had opposition - **vs. 5-9**

#2 Expect there to be _____ to your _____.

→ Daniel still has reason to be thankful - **vs. 10**

→ Daniel is put in the lions' den - **vs. 11-17**

#3 Expect life in a _____ to have _____.

→ things we learn about God from this event: - **vs. 18-23**

#4 Expect _____ to _____ you from _____ and _____.

→ what I can expect from God:

Group Questions | Daniel

Part 6: Greater Expectations

Daniel 6

1. What kinds of expectations do you think people today (maybe even us at times) have about what life should look like if they're following Jesus faithfully?
2. **Read Daniel 6:1-5.** Daniel's integrity frustrated his coworkers because they couldn't find any dirt on him. Why do you think people sometimes react negatively to someone living out their faith?
3. **Read John 15:18-20.** Jesus warned that the world would treat his followers the same way it treated him. How have you seen or experienced pushback for living your faith?
4. **Read Daniel 6:10.** Daniel not only chose to keep praying, but was thankful. What was he thankful for? How can you apply that kind of attitude to your own life?
5. **Read Daniel 6:16-17.** Imagine how Daniel must have felt being lowered into the lion's den after doing nothing wrong. How do you process moments in life when you feel like you're being punished for doing the right thing?
6. **Read Daniel 6:19-23.** God shut the mouths of the lions. How does this point forward to Jesus shutting the mouth of the ultimate lion—Satan—through the cross and empty tomb?
7. What are some of the things we *can always expect* from God when following Jesus (peace, joy, forgiveness, eternal life, etc.)? Which of these is most encouraging to you right now?

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→ unmet expectations bring disappointment

#1 Your expectations will shape your view of God.

→ Daniel was a man of faith and integrity - **vs. 1-2**

→ he had opposition - **vs. 5-9**

#2 Expect there to be opposition to your faith.

→ Daniel still has reason to be thankful - **vs. 10**

→ Daniel is put in the lions' den - **vs. 11-17**

#3 Expect life in a sinful world to have trials.

→ things we learn about God from this event: - **vs. 18-23**

#4 Expect Jesus to rescue you from sin and death.

→ what I can expect from God:

Bible Reading for Today

Daniel 6

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.