

DANIEL

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE & REBECCA FRENCH

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Daniel 6 - False Accusations

Overview

- Daniel's faithfulness sets him apart, to the frustration of those around him. (vv. 6:1-5)**
Dan. 6:3 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. **4** 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.
- Envious competitors twist truth and justice to ruin Daniel. (vv. 6:6-9)**
Dan. 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 chooses faithful loyalty over safety. (vv. 6:10-15)**
Dan. 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. **11** Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

Dan. 6:14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.
- Daniel's faithfulness is public knowledge. (vv. 6:16-23)**
Dan. 6:16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"

Dan 6:19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. **20** As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" **21** Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever!"
- Through Daniel's faithfulness, God's character and power become public knowledge. (vv. 6:24-28)**
Dan. 6:25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. **26** 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. **27** 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's example foreshadows our Christ-like pattern

1Pet. 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1. Slander and hostility should not surprise the people of God.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you...

2. Our inward resolve produces outward faithfulness.

...leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten...

3. Understanding God's love and faithfulness fuels our loyalty, even facing opposition.

4. We continuously and publicly adhere to God's principles as we trust in our perfect judge.

...but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Dan. 6:22 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."

Reflection/Discussion

1. Think about some of the false accusations levelled against Christ-followers in today's culture (politics, media, education, etc.). How does the example of Daniel and Jesus encourage and bolster your resolve?

SONGS

"GOD SO LOVED" - Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash

"THE GOODNESS OF JESUS" - F. Aghajanian, H. Druery, M. Farren, J. Maxwell, J. Robinson, R. Thompson

"O PRAISE HIM" - David Crowder

"GOD OF REVIVAL" - Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 40,418.24

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 1,029,686.49

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 1,118,883.00