

Bible Study

Daniel Chapter 6:1-28

Opening Question:

1. Have you been in a situation where you faced consequences for doing the right thing?
2. Has there been a time when you have had to choose between doing what is right and what is easy?

Read Daniel 6:1-28

Discussion Questions

1. Observation & reflection
 - (a) What word or idea stands out to you, what did you struggle to understand?
 - (b) What is the theme of the passage?
 - (c) Is there any shift or change or difference from previous chapters?
2. King Darius willingly signed the document prohibiting prayer to anyone but him
 - (a) Why would the other leaders of the Kingdom recommend this?
 - (b) Why would Darius agree to it?
3. What do you think motivated the other administrators to plot against Daniel?
4. Since the other rulers could find no valid complaint against Daniel what area of his life did they decide to use against him?
 - (a) What reasons would some people have to be unhappy with you for simply being a believer?
 - (b) What are some current societal pressures that conflict with your faith?
 - (c) Whilst we are unlikely to be thrown into a lion's den and then saved from being eaten by said lions. What does it look like in our world to be rescued by God from danger?
 - (i) Why are there no promises that God will always physically rescue us?
5. What do we learn about Daniel's character from the results of the investigation by his enemies?
6. Upon learning of the new law, how does Daniel react?
 - (a) What does Jerusalem represent for Daniel?
 - (a) What is our Jerusalem?
 - (b) What does this say about how important prayer is to Daniel?
 - (c) What does this teach us about how we should see prayer?

7. Daniel did not protest the decree he simply continued in faithful obedience to God. How can we follow his example when we encounter rules that make it challenging to be faithful to how God has called us to live?
8. Why would the King have been distressed at the thought of sending Daniel to the Lion's Den?
 - (a) Why would the King not change his edict?
9. How do verses 14-20 underscore the impact Daniel's life had on the king?
10. In what sense are Daniel and Daniel's God on trial in this chapter?

Thought Points

- Daniel has now served the empire faithfully for around 70 years
- Darius is the Mede is now King
- The kingdom has been divided into 120 provinces
- A Satrap is a leaders of a province
- God has a purpose even in a crisis
- Our allegiance is first to the Kingdom of Heaven, but held in tension with the fact that we are called to love this world and those who live in it.

Extra Reading

Genesis 50:20, Psalm 73:6, Psalm 119:105-112, Proverbs 11:8, 14:3, 26:12, Daniel 5:20, Obadiah 1:3, Romans 8:28, Galatians 6:8-9, 2Timothy 3:12-13, Philippians 2:3, 1Peter 3:14-17, 2Peter 2:9

Personal Reflection:

- Think back over the first six chapters. How can the fact that God "holds in his hand your life and all your ways" (5:23) help you to honour and obey him as Daniel did?
- If we are ashamed of God, what will happen (Mark 8:38)?
- Why do we sometimes worry more about what others think and less about what God thinks (Eph 6:19-20)?
- What is more important, your current circumstances or your soul (Mark 8:34-37)?
- Do you complement or contrast the behaviours of the world (1Pet 2:11, 1The 5:22)?
- Take this "Am I Like Daniel?" self-assessment.

	never <.....> always
• I serve God continually (Dan 6:16-20).	1-2-3-4-5
• I am innocent before God and men (Dan 6:21-22)	1-2-3-4-5
• I believe in God and trust Him (Dan 6:23)	1-2-3-4-5