

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1 - 24

Are you familiar with various superstitions, like lucky rabbits feet, throwing salt over one's shoulder for good luck, finding a four leaf clover? When people believe in these superstitions, what are they doing? What does the first commandment tell us about trust?

Today's lesson is an example to us of an individual who trusted in God even when his life was in danger.



Prayer

God Himself is present: let us now adore Him and with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple - all within keep silence, prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone God we own, Him our God and Savior; praise His name forever. Amen

The Story - Daniel 6

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom (of *Babylon*) one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; {2} and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. {3} Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. {4} So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. {5} Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him

concerning the law of his God."

{6} So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! {7} "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. {8} "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." {9} Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

{10} Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his



upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. {11} Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. {12} And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

{13} So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." {14} And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

{15} Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

{16} So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."

{17} Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. {18} Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.

{19} Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. {20} And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "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! {22} "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

{23} Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

{24} And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions; them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

{25} Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

{26} I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. {27} He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

{28} So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Outer Aim - Daniel obeyed God's will rather than men.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in each blank with the correct answer. Then find the answers in the WORD SEARCH below.

1. _____ was the ruler in _____.
2. He chose governors and _____ to help him rule.
3. _____ was one of them chosen and he was a Jew.
4. Jealous rulers tricked the king to sign a _____ ordering idol worship.
5. This did not stop Daniel. He still _____ times a day as God had commanded.
6. Because of the law of the _____ the king could not change the law.
7. Daniel was thrown into the _____.
8. God sent an _____ to keep him safe.

A Y N U J L O I P T N L L U Y E
M E D E S A N D P E R S I A N S
P N E O K D T B A B Y L O N P A
R V C P E A S P F I W Q N S M T
A C R K I N G D A R I U S A D R
Y A E L R I N U H S C E D D F A
E W E M T E B S T H R E E B N P
D A N G E L H R X U J G N C B S

Inner Aim - We are to obey God rather than men.

Your Turn - Answer the following questions together.

1. Why did Daniel do well as a governor under King Darius? What gifts had God given to Daniel to fulfill his duty to the king?
2. What sinful feelings grew in the hearts of the other rulers because of the way the king treated Daniel?
3. What did these sinful feelings lead them to do?
4. How did Daniel show that he trusted in God above all things?
5. How did God show that He has all power to care for His children?

What God's Word Tells Us - Read the following passage. Then write at least three sentences explaining how this passage relates to our lesson about Daniel and our lives as Christians today. Then talk about times or possible situations in which we should disobey men in order to obey God.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

Passages

Psalm 50:15) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matthew 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Hymn - TLH #428

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the God who blessed and protected Daniel, and You have promised to bless and protect me too. Help me to trust in You above all things and not to be afraid of anything that man can do to me. Help me to pray to You at all times, because I know that you have promised to hear me. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to forgive my sin. Amen.