



Midweek Study

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STANDING STRONG IN A HOSTILE CULTURE

THE BOOK OF DANIEL



THE POWER OF A CONSISTENT LIFE

Daniel 6:1-11

We value youthfulness; God values faithfulness. Michaelangelo painted The Last Judgement at age 67. Caleb said “Give me this mountain” (Joshua 14:12) at age 85. John Wesley was still preaching with undiminished power at age 88. Thomas Edison was still inventing at age 90. Daniel was probably 85 years old in Daniel 6. He had been a political leader under Nebuchadnezzar as a young man, served other kings and was offered a promotion from Belshazzar, and now is serving Darius as one of 3 Governors overseeing 40 satraps (1/3rd of Darius’s kingdom).

Daniel 1-6 – The Court Stories

Daniel 7-12 – The Prophetic Chapters

Who was King Darius? – Army conqueror named Gubaru – “The holder of the scepter” or, Darius. Cyrus the Persian was King, and he placed Gubaru over Babylon.

1) The INVESTMENT in His WORK (6:1-3)

- Daniel distinguished himself because of his excellent spirit. Years and years of Daniel investing in his work.

God’s Perspective on Work: Gen. 2:15; Rev. 22:3; 1 Thess. 4:11-12

GREAT QUOTE: “Jennie, Jennie. You’ve got to understand. I believe God has made me for a purpose – for China. **But He also made me fast! And when I run I feel His pleasure! To give it up would be to hold Him in contempt. You were right. It’s not just fun. To win is to honor Him,**” Eric Liddell, Gold Medalist, 1924 Olympics, from *Chariots of Fire*.

Exodus 31:1-5 (Message Paraphrase)

¹ GOD spoke to Moses:

² "See what I've done; I've personally chosen Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur of the tribe of Judah.

³ I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft

⁴ to create designs and work in gold, silver, and bronze;

⁵ to cut and set gemstones; to carve wood—he's an all-around craftsman.

Did you know that every vocation is holy to the Lord? The Bible makes no distinction between the sacred and the secular. For the Christian, all of life is “spiritual.” Francis Schaeffer said: “A ministry such as teaching the Bible in a college is no higher calling intrinsically than being a businessman or something else.”

1 Corinthians 7:20, 24 (The Living Bible)

²⁰Usually a person should keep on with the work he was doing when God called him... ²⁴So, dear brothers, whatever situation a person is in when he becomes a Christian, let him stay there, for now the Lord is there to help him.

Read Genesis 39:20-23. As a prisoner and slave, Joseph could have seen his situation as hopeless. Instead, he did his best with each small task given him. His diligence and positive attitude were soon noticed by the chief jailer, who promoted him to prison administrator. No matter what you do for a living, follow Joseph's example by doing your best with each small task given you. Remember that your top priority should be to honor God in your work, not to please your boss.

2) The INTEGRITY of His WALK (6:4-5)

- Daniel was not faultless or sinless, but he was **blameless**.
- Being is more important than Doing (Your "Who" is more important than your "Do")
- If I wanted to see the godliest people in the church, I would first and foremost look in someone's home. Secondarily, I would look in the choir, Sunday School class or mission work.
- ***Integrity is not what others think you to be, but what your family knows you to be.***
- ***Integrity is being in the dark what you say you are in the light.***

3) The INTIMACY of His WORSHIP (6:10)

- Notice Daniel's **boldness** in prayer (Prayed in front of open windows towards Jerusalem)
- ***Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV)***
³² *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*
³³ *But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*
- Notice Daniel's **discipline** in prayer (3x a day Daniel prayed)
- Notice Daniel's **consistency** in prayer (He prayed just like he always prayed)
- ***Mark 1:35 (NKJV)***
³⁵ *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*

4) The INFLUENCE of His WITNESS (6:11)

- You focus on the depth; Let God focus on the breadth.
- Make yourself usable and God will wear you out!
- Where would someone expect to find you? At prayer? Daniel's enemies knew where to find him.
- St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words."
- Cyrus was the man who would send the Jews back to Jerusalem. Daniel could have been right beside him encouraging him to do that.