

## Devoted Part 7 - "Legacy of Devotion" (9-12-21)

**Introduction:** Daniel 6 - Daniel and the lions Den (In continued turmoil & change - Daniel remains faithful)

### Daniel 6:1-2 (ESV)

(1) It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; (2) and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.

#### 1) Daniel's Life Spoke

##### a) Daniel - was elevated

### Daniel 6:3 (ESV)

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.

**Note:** Daniel's devotion to God so shaped his character that he became **distinguished** & was **elevated**

##### b) Daniel - was hated

### Daniel 6:4-5 (ESV)

(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. (5) Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

**Note:** Your devotion & God ordained success will not always be celebrated, yet it can't be denied.

- **(Daniel 6:6-9) - These men devise a plan** - based upon Daniel's devotion to God!
- **Their scheme** - appeal to Darius' Pride (no petitions/prayers for 30 days except to the king)
- **The Consequences** - thrown to the lions (Darius signs the document)

##### c) Daniel - remained disciplined

### Daniel 6:10 (ESV)

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.

**Note:** Daniel's devotion didn't happen overnight - he cultivated his commitment over time - that's discipline!

- Before Daniel ever faced the threat of lions because of his devotion . . .
- Daniel faced pork & peer pressure - Daniel's time in Babylon started with a chosen fast.

If we don't choose devotion when it's just inconvenient, then we won't remain devoted when the fire get's hot!

**How do we know Daniels' life spoke? Because even his enemies knew where to find him . . .**

### Daniel 6:11 (ESV)

Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

**Application: Your life speaks - what is it saying?**

## 2) Daniel's mouth spoke too

When does Daniel speak for the first time?

### **Daniel 6:21-22 (ESV)**

(21) Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! (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."

**Note:** The First time Daniel speaks to men . . . is to testify of God's goodness after surviving the lion's den!

### **When Daniel could have spoken but didn't**

- When the plot was underway - he was well thought of by the King!
- To defend himself after he was caught - he could have even lied.
- When being thrown to the lions - cried out for help, mercy, or even just in despair!

### **The one time he did speak . . . when he Prayed!** (Daniel 6:10-11). Consider . . .

- He could have just made petitions to the king for a month
- He could have stopped praying to God for one month
- He could have prayed quietly & privately

### **How many of us would have rushed to speak before men?**

To defend ourselves, expose the lies & slander, to try and change or control the outcome

### **James 3:5-10 (ESV)**

(5) So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! (6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

(7) For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, (8) but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (9) With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. (10) From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

**Note:** The real dangerous & untamed beast in Daniel 6 was not the lions - it was the tongue!

- Daniel had every right to defend himself, expose his enemies, & seek their judgment.
- He never does that, even when he comes out on the other side!
- He praises God and honors the king, but he never even speaks of his accusers!

The real miracle is not that God tamed the mouths of the lions, but that Daniel's tongue was tamed!

The tongue that devotes itself to prayer is well on its way to experiencing a miraculous transformation . . .

### **James 3:3-4 (ESV)**

(3) If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. (4) Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

**Application: Prayer changes the very nature of our speech, & therefore changes the course of our life!**

### 3) What's your legacy?

Consider 2 legacies . . .

#### Daniel 6:22-23 (ESV)

(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.” (23) Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

**Note:** Daniel entrusts his life to the Lord and is rescued (not from but through) adversity & danger.

#### Daniel 6:24 (ESV)

And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

**Note:** Daniel's accusers take their lives into their own hands, and find themselves & their legacy destroyed.

#### Conclusion: What steers the course of your life?

- I can choose to entrust my life into the hands of the One who holds eternal life
- I can allow the story of my life to find its place in God's great story of redemption
- I can be devoted to the only One who is truly, always, devoted to me!

For Reflection . . .

#### Psalms 34:1-22 (ESV)

(1) I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. (2) My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. (3) Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (4) I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. (5) Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. (6) This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. (7) The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. (8) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (9) Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! (10) The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. (11) Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (12) What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? (13) Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. (14) Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (15) The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. (16) The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. (17) When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. (18) The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (19) Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. (20) He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. (21) Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. (22) The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.