

Dilemma: Strength of Lions

July 8 & 9, 2023

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

BIG IDEA: Courage is not an act; it's a habit formed over time.

Daniel 6:3-7 | ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." ⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

Courage: mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

1. Have the courage to live FAITHFULLY.

Daniel 6:10 | Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

2. COURAGEOUSLY trust God to work on your behalf.

Daniel 6:20-22 | ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

3. Give God the GLORY for the victories.

Daniel 6:25-27 | ²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! ²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

NEXT STEP: Step out in courage in an area you need to surrender to God.

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

Can you recall a time you had to be bold and courageous for God?

Share with the group what that moment was and how you reacted.

Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

Digging Deeper:

Read: **2 Timothy 1:7-8** & **Proverbs 28:1**

2 Timothy 1:7-8 | ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

Proverbs 28:1 | The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

Do you think culture today has caused Christians to be somewhat weakened in their boldness of faith? Why is this?

How might we become more courageous individually? How about as a church?

Why do you think we often struggle with giving God the credit and praise after our accomplishments?

Application:

Step out in faith this week. Pray that God presents you with difficult opportunities that challenge your ability to be bold and courageous. When God opens a door or conversation, take it! See the value in the ability to step out of your comfort zone and overcome adversity.

Jesus, I pray you give me daily opportunities that grow and challenge me in my boldness for you. I thank you for giving me a voice to speak truth and to overcome adversity through the power of your Holy Spirit. May you receive all the praise and glory from every victory you lead me through.